THE HINDOO PATRIOT

With which is incorporated the Indian Field.

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Per Annum in Advance.
TOWN.....11-8.
MOFUSSIL.....13-4.

THE WEEK.

MONDAY, 31ST JANUARY.

WE GIVE below the prices of rice in Calcutta for the last sixteen years compiled from the books of some Hatkhola Mahajuns :

	Balam good.	Balam coarse.	Khari	Deeshi
	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.
1865...	2 4 0	2 0 0	1 12 0	0 0 0
1866...	4 8 0	3 13 0	0 0 0	0 0 0
1867...	3 12 0	3 0 0	2 14 0	0 0 0
1868...	2 8 0	2 0 0	2 4 0	0 0 0
1869...	2 8 0	2 0 0	2 4 0	0 0 0
1870...	2 4 0	1 12 0	2 0 0	0 0 0
1871...	2 0 0	1 8 0	1 12 0	0 0 0
1872...	2 0 0	1 8 0	1 12 0	0 0 0
1873...	2 0 0	1 8 0	1 12 0	0 0 0
1874...	3 12 0	2 8 0	2 13 0	2 11 0
1875...	3 0 0	2 0 0	2 4 0	2 8 0
1876...	3 4 0	2 4 0	2 8 0	2 12 0
1877...	4 8 0	3 0 0	3 8 0	3 12 0
1878...	4 5 0	2 12 0	0 0 0	3 3 6
1879...	3 1 0	2 11 6	2 10 9	2 12 0
1880...	2 4 0	1 14 0	1 14 0	2 0 0

It will be seen from the above that the price of rice this year is almost the same that prevailed sixteen years ago.

AN ASSAM CORRESPONDENT writes to us as follows :

Now that Sir Steuart Bayley the Chief Commissioner of Assam, has been provided for at Hyderabad, and Major Baring, our new Finance Minister, is devising means for reduction of public expenditure, it seems a fitting opportunity to revive the discussion of the question of re-union of Assam to Bengal. The reasons for and against the measure were discussed at length during his predecessors time, and the Provincial Contract with Assam was made under the same arrangements as with Bengal, so that there would be no difficulty in this respect in the reunion of the two Provinces. Besides the creation of a Commissionership for the Brahmaputra Valley has already made the change quite feasible without breaking the continuity of the policy of Government. The measure, we may well assume, will result in considerable saving to the State without injuring the interests of Assam in the least. During the seven years that the Chief Commissionership had its trial Assam has not benefited to the extent it would have if it had formed an appanage to Bengal. On the contrary want of fund stands in the way of any large measure of improvements being undertaken. Will you kindly draw the attention of the new Finance Minister to a reconsideration of the question and settle it once for all.

We entirely concur. We have always been of opinion that on the ground of economy as well as efficiency Assam ought to be restored to Bengal.

GENERAL ROBERTS was entertained at a banquet at Liverpool, a numerous and distinguished company being present. The Bishop of the diocese observed that no class of men felt a keener interest in the gallant deeds of the General than the clergy. It is significant that the clergy have come to vindicate war. Sir Frederick Roberts, in responding to a complimentary toast, urged the citizens of Liverpool to do all they could to elevate the status of the private soldier, and to disabuse him of the impression that military service was a barrier to civil employment.

LORD LAWRENCE, son of the "Saviour of India," took part in the inauguration of the Junior Liberal Association at Ayr. In speaking on Indian affairs, he said there had always been two policies regarding the frontier question—one of extension and the other of maintaining it as it was. The Liberal Party had set their faces against the first. He hoped their troops would soon be removed from Kandahar.

A REMARKABLE case of fasting is reported from Ipswich. The wife of a jobbing gardener, named Lockwood, it is stated, has not eaten a pound of solid food throughout last year, and for the last three months has had nothing but a few drops of weak tea, amounting in quantity to less than a pint per month. She is reduced to a mere skeleton, unable to move her head or open her eyes or mouth, but with her right arm is able to shift her head from one side to the other. She can moisten her lips with the fingers of her right hand, but beyond this she is unable to move, all the rest of her frame being apparently dead. She faints at the least excitement, and lies for hours, and even days, in a state of coma. In one instance she lay so for a fortnight. When not insensible her mental faculties are almost unimpaired. A surgeon who has visited her says, she suffers from pressure on the brain, and at times endures intense pain in the right temple. In olden days Indian Rishis used to fast for years without suffering in body. The sadhu who was discovered the estates of the Bhukhyl s Rajas and brought to their house did not eat or drink, but there was not the slightest diminution in his physical appearance.

IT IS stated that a military commissioner of high rank, who has been making investigation into the present state of things in Ireland, has forwarded to the Government a full report of his observation and opinions, of which the following is a synopsis :—(1) There is no actual organised rising to be feared at present. A determined leader might have incited a rising, but the precautionary measure adopted of despatching extra forces throughout the country has greatly lessened the probability of such an occurrence. (2) There is no occasion for any fear, and the presence of additional troops will aggravate the disorders daily occurring. (3) If her Majesty's Government at once take strict measures for the repression of lawlessness, a peaceful solution of the present difficulties, and a cessation of outrages and disturbances may be looked for with confidence.

TUESDAY, 1ST FEBRUARY.

LORD DUFFERIN has laid before the Land Commission an elaborate paper on the Irish land question. His Lordship denounces the three F's. He says :—"The problem is to render Ireland conservative, to make it the interest of the peasantry to support law and order, to recognise the sanctity of property, and the reasonableness and necessity of rent. This can only be done by making him an owner, and an owner upon a very extensive scale—upon such a scale as to render it the interest of the greater part of the population to insist upon the remainder fulfilling their legal obligations. How is this to be done? Let a necessary sum, raised on Government securities, be devoted to the purchase, upon fair and proper terms, to be regulated by a trustworthy Commission, of a considerable proportion of the lands of Ireland." Lord Dufferin would regard the interest on the capital sum employed as a rent charge or land rate to be collected by local outhorities, with power to levy a rate in aid, Russian fashion, over any limited area in which farmers were back in their rent. Although he objects to the "three F's" in conjunction, he says :—"Fair rent is a principle to be welcomed by landlord and by tenant alike as the only possible foundation of their relationship, and the essential feature of a healthy agriculture," and he should "hail with satisfaction any reasonable solution of it." Lord Dufferin protests, as a free trader, against legislation to assure the artificial protection of a system of cultivation based on a crop so liable to failure as the potato. And he maintains that property is as sacred as liberty; and denies that any Government can be justified in violating the elementary principles of law and justice, "even in the presence of far greater difficulties than those which confront us in Ireland.

THERE ARE some people, who attribute the misery of the Irish peasantry to their "incorrigible mania for early marriage," but a phamphlet has been published from which it appears that the Irish neither marry earlier nor multiply more rapidly than the English or Scotch. Quoting from the census returns of 1871, Mr. Pim, the pamphleteer, shows that marriages were only 4·4 per 1,000 in Ireland, against 7·1 in Scotland and 8·1 in England. The increase per 1000 was 5·5 in Ireland 15·1 in Scotland and 15·7 in England. The percentage of unmarried persons in Ireland was 44·99, in Scotland 43·77, and in England 37·22. The statistics as to early marriages are conclusive. In 1871,91 per cent. of young men between the ages of fifteen and twenty-five were unmarried. In Scotland the proportion was 84 per cent. and in England and Wales 77. Thus only 9 per cent., of Irishmen marry before they complete their twenty-fifth year, while the percentage among Scotchmen is 16, and among Englishmen 23.

WE ARE SORRY to notice the death of the *Anglo-Indian Guardian*. Although we did not often agree with our contemporary, still we must do him the justice to say that it was written with some ability. Although the leaders were not generally well-sustained, the editorial notes were smart and well turned. It was a consistent champion of the Eurasian community. It does not speak of their public spirit that they could not support this single organ in the press.

YET ANOTHER ANNEXATION. The Chiefs of the Island of Rotumah, in the Western Pacific Ocean, having prayed that they may be brought under the sovereignty of the British Crown, her Majesty has been graciously pleased to direct letters patent to be passed under the Great Sea of the United Kingdom, declaring that the island Rotumah and its dependencies shall in future form part of her Majesty's dominions and shall be annexed to the colony of Fiji.

MR. HYNDMAN is again pressing his views of the condition of India. He is informed on very good authority that the drawings of the Indian Council for the year 1881, will be not less than £19,000,000 for home account. In addition to this, private drawings are reckoned at £5,000,000. Thus, exclusive of freight, profit, or insurance, England will take out of India in the current year not less than £ 4,000,000 worth of agricultural produce without any commensurate return whatsoever. Is not that enough to account for the impoverishment of a country whose total net income, as Mr. Fawcett has conclusively shown, is under £40,000,000? For let it be remembered that this is not only the largest amount ever drawn from India in any one year, but that it comes after a drain on the average of £20,000,000 for the last twenty years. Who can wonder that India is poor after that?

THE LONDON CORRESPONDENT of the *Times of India* has the following on the libel suit against the London *Statesman* :

In press circles the opinion is that nothing will come of Mr. Robert Knight's committal on the charge of libelling the Ameer-i-Kabeer of Hyderabad. It would be improper to discuss the merits of the charge; and it would be superfluous to moralise on the fanatically-ferocious style which the *Statesman* affects. But it comes home to us all that if the action against Mr. Knight be sustained, English newspapers will be the objects of all sorts of charges by foreign princes and rulers whose government and behaviour we have been accustomed to criticise with considerable freedom. The Czar of Russia vs. *The Daily Telegraph*, or the Sultan of Turkey vs. *The Daily News*, or the Pope of Rome vs. *The Morning Advertiser* will be a new "sensation" for the public. I observe that some of the writers on the subject perceive that the libel is far more severe upon Lord Lytton than any body else; and it is suggested that "if Lord Lytton and his friends are the persons really aggrieved, it would be better that they should be the actual prosecutors."

WEDNESDAY, 2ND FEBRUARY.

IT IS SAID that Lord Beaconsfield has ready for publication another political novel. It deals with the period of Sir Robert Peel and Mr. O'Connell, and is more undisguisedly autobiographic than any of the author's previous works. Some months will elapse before it will be published.

THE PROMISED ABOLITION of corporal punishment in the British army will be received with great satisfaction by a considerable section of the military world as well as the general public. There was a time when flogging was considered necessary to the discipline of troops. Recent experience, and the evidence of continental armies, has proved that discipline can be perfectly maintained without it. We hope flogging will be era ed from the statute-book altogether.

AN APPROXIMATE estimate of the results of the United States census shows a total population exceeding 50,000,000, or an increase of 11½ millions in ten years.

THE LAHORE PAPER hears that the series of accidents on the Punjab Northern State Railway has had the effect of considerably diminishing the inclination of the native community to indulge in travelling by the line. This is to be regretted.

THE SCHEME, proposed by Mr. Hogg, Director-General of the Post Office, to extend the mail delivery to the distant villages in the interior of every district in the mofussil, to which we alluded a few days ago, is being gradually and successfully introduced. Several village school-masters and *banias* in the North Western Provinces have been appointed deputy post-masters in their respective villages, on small allowances. The Director of Public Instruction has been requested to co-operate with the postal authorities in carrying out the scheme.

THE LUCKNOW WITNESS says :—

THE *Hindoo Patriot* raises a protest against the appointment of Dr. Hoernle, who has been Principal of the Cathedral Mission College, as Professor in the Presidency College. The only objection is that he has been a Missionary, and so his admission to the educational service will endanger the "policy of religious neutrality in matters of education." But we

say nothing could more speedily and conclusively demonstrate that the Government were utterly insincere in their professions of religious neutrality than the *refusal* to appoint men of positive Christian principle, like Dr. Hoernle. It is well known that men bitterly opposed to Christianity hold posts in the Educational service. some of them high ones, and they do not at all seek to hide their opposition. But are there not Christians in the educational service? Nobody objects to their appointment. It is when a professed missionary takes to service under Government doubt and distrust are engendered. He cannot serve both God and Mammon.

THE RAJPUTANA STATE RAILWAY is now open for through-traffic between Bombay and Delhi and Agra. The distance from Bombay to Delhi by this line is 889 miles, and to Agra 847, 345 miles less to Delhi, and 276 miles less to Agra than by the old route via Allahabad. To Delhi the first class fare is Rs. 60 less, and second class fare Rs. 23-15-6 less, while the time occupied by the journey is 2 hours and 20 minutes less. From Agra to Bombay the savings are Rs. 52-4-9 first class, Rs. 20-9-3 second class; but in time 1 hour 45 minutes will be lost.

THURSDAY, 3RD FEBRUARY.

THE FOLLOWING facts connected with somnambulism are placed at our disposal by a correspondent:

The subject of the attack is a young man of 26 years of age and is a native of Gossain Doorgapoor in the Nuddea District. He lived with his cousins in Panchanuntollah lane in this city. The fit comes to him every four or five days. In the first fit he had in Calcutta he dreamed that one of his cousins wanted him to follow him to the terrace of the house, a three-storeyed building. He went up and took his seat on the edge of the cornice whence he called out his cousin in a loud voice. The cousin roused by the call left his bed and went up to the direction of the sound fearing something wrong. When the cousin demanded to know the reason of this untimely call the somnambulist awoke and retorted it was he who had called him first. On the second occasion the somnambulist unbolted his bed-room door, left the house and walked from Panchanuntollah to Pattootollah Lane, about half a mile he entered a deserted house, ascended the roof of its chundymandab which is inaccessible, having no stair-case and took his seat on the edge of the cornice. He dreamed that he had a young female for a companion with whom he carried on conversation on diverse subjects and who afterwards disappeared, that is when he awoke. When in his senses he was frightened at his situation and not knowing where he was he again called out his cousin by name. His calls were at last answered by a man from a neighbouring house, who made the somnambulist aware of the locality he was in. His situation was a difficult one, no one venturing to lend the man a helping hand until another young man joined the roof of the house he was in with the roof of the deserted house on which the somnambulist was standing. He was sent back by his cousin to his native village where on the second day after his arrival he rose in the same manner and was restrained by his brother who slept in the same room with him. He was after that kept under lock and key at night, Another day the precaution having been neglected the somnambulist left his house, walked a mile or more, forded a river which was luckily fordable, and it was when the water rose up to his chin that he was roused. He reached shore, espied a village at some distance which he reached, and which happily contained his Golabari where he dried himself. As usual in the second case he was taken for a spirit and the women generally believed he was possessed.

FROM THE catalogue of books, pamphlets and periodicals received into the Bengal Library during the 4th quarter of 1880 we learn that altogether 395 publications were received, of which 284 were unilinguals and their languages were Arabic, Assamese, Bengali, English, Garo, Hindi, Musulman-Bengali, Persian, Sanskrit, Urdu and Oorya, 37 bi-linguals, the languages of which were Bengali, English-Sanskrit, Oorya, Hindi and Urdu; 2 tri-linguals. Of the 72 periodicals 71 were uni-linguals, either English or Bengali, and one bi-lingual. The subjects of the Bengali books were mostly religious, Hindu or Christian, and many of them were reprints or translations of standard works.

WE HAVE RECEIVED a copy of a catechism of Indian History by Mr. Patrick Macguire. The questions and answers are well arranged, and will prove exceedingly useful to our students. The popularity of the work is best tested by the fact that this is its fourth edition.

THERE WERE 305 deaths in Calcutta during the week ending 29th January last, of which 18 were from cholera, 2 from small-pox, 102 from fevers, 51 from bowel complaints, 2 from accidents, 21 from asthma and pthisis, 19 from tetanus and the rest from other causes. Eleven children were still-born, 47 died between the ages of 15 days and under one year, and 43persons died at the age of 60 years and upwards. Among non-Asiatics and mixed races the deaths were 15. The average of mortality per diem was 43·5.

FRIDAY, 4TH FEBRUARY.

WE TAKE the following from the *British Medical Journal* on the subject of the Viceroy's recent illness:

THE complete recovery of Lord Ripon, and the satisfactory communications which have been received from various friends in India, appear to confirm the medical opinion first formed, that the recent illness of the Viceroy was nothing more than fever, from which new comers to India nearly always suffer under similar circumstances. Lord Ripon had come down, probably under stress of business, contrary to the usual caution necessary, from the cold north-west into the seething moisture of heated Bombay, where the temperature stands at 88 in the month of November; and had been much fatigued by various Durbars and public ceremonies, and, under such circumstances, it is not at all surprising that he has suffered from an attack of fever. His convalescence however, gives good reason to hope that no evil consequences will follow. An attack of feverishness or fever in India has not the same serious significance that it has in England and to English ears. In India, one hears, on one day, that a man is completely prostrate with fever; the next day he meets him at a dinner party, well.

WE UNDERSTAND that the services of Babu Issur Chunder Mitter, whose leave has expired, have been temporarily placed at the disposal of the Board of Revenue to assist it in the preparation of the License tax report.

WE HAVE read with much pleasure a representation of the Suburban Rate-payers' Association to the Suburban Municipality regarding the Budget for 1881-82. Their letter contains several good practical suggestions. The Rate-Payers' Association are doing much useful work, and will, we hope, continue their labours as a Committee of Vigilance.

THE DEATH is announced of Mr. Robert O'Dowda, late Receiver of the Calcutta Supreme Court. His was a familiar face in the last generation. He must have numbered three scores and ten.

WE ARE sorry to notice the death of General Sir LeGrand Jacob. He rendered signal services during the Sepoy Mutiny. It was owing to his firmness, judgment, and conciliatory spirit that the Southern Maharatha country was saved the calamity of a rising. He was a model political officer. He used to take a most lively interest in the welfare of the people of India up to his last moments. As a proof of his sympathy with the cause of liberal education in this country he gave a munificent donation of Rs. 11,000 for the foundation of scholarships and prizes.

WE HAVE received the January number of a London monthly Magazine, entitled the *Burlington*. It is chiefly filled with stories and tales both interesting and readable. It will make an excellent companion for a few leisure hours.

THE FLOWER-SHOW of the Agri-Horticultural Society held yesterday was a great success. The rank, fashion and beauty of Calcutta were present. Their Excellencies the Viceroy and Lady Ripon, and His Honor the Lieutenant Governor graced the occasion with their presence.

A CORRESPONDENT thus writes to us about the Sonthal excitement:

The Santhal excitement is day by day growing serious. The Santhals in the Doomka Subdivision and in Damon are now in a state of horrible excitement, no actual outburst has as yet taken place amongst them, but armed force has been resorted to by the Divisional Officers to help them in the census. At Noonihat Mr. Smith, the Divisional Officer is hemmed in on all sides by Santhals, and he has been compelled to ask for military help. Mr. Cosserat at Damon was a prisoner in the hands of the Santhals and his life was actually threatened by them for the time. One armed police force has been sent to his rescue and another armed force has been sent to the succour of Mr. Smith. The infection has spread to the division of Godda and we do not know how far it will extend.

The present excitement is not merely confined amongst the Santhals but is widely spreading amongst *deeus i'e* non-Santhal population and paharhias. All the persuasions and energetic efforts of the Divisional Officers are proving fruitless.

It seems the Santhals have no faith in the words of our officers. The excitement is owing to discontentment which has been brewing up for several years. It is not the sudden offspring of the census operations, but the result of discontent and suspicions which are growing up since 1872 when the reorganization of the districts and remodelling of the laws took place, laws and organization being totally different from those in force in adjoining districts. Are not the people similar in habits and manners to those of the Hazaribag and Purulia, districts? Why not the people in those districts rise in excitement?

Since 1872 this is the second time that the people have risen and have cost the Government thousands of rupees on account of keeping armed force. Is this not sufficient to convince the Government of the fact that the laws and the machinery of administration require thorough alteration?

SATURDAY, 5TH FEBRUARY.

WE HAVE recieved a copy of the address of the Indian Association to the Viceroy. After giving a hearty welcome to His Excellency the Association protest against the Vernacular Press Act, the Arms Act, and the vagaries of executive officers in the Mofusil.

THE MYSORE STATE RAILWAY between Bangalore and Chennapana, 35 miles was opened to public traffic on first February.—*Press Commissioner.*

WE ACKNOWLEDGE with thanks the receipt of the new Punjab paper, the *Tribune*, which will be under native management exclusively. Its programme is is fair and liberal. The first number is well-written, and if our young brother goes on as he has begun, he will prove a strong pillar of Northern India. We wish him every success.

WE HAVE RECEIVED the last number of the *Oriental Miscellany*. Its punctuality is very creditable to its conductors. The contents of the number as usual are varied and interesting. The fugitive pieces are by far the most readable.

OUR KRISHNAGHUR CORRESPONDENT informs us that a public meeting will be held in the capital of Nuddea for the purpose of raising subscriptions for the defrayal of the expenses of the libel suit against Mr. Robert Knight, editor of the London *Statesman*.

THE INDO-EUROPEAN CORRESPONDENCE has the following:

The *Hindoo Patriot* objects to the appointment of any professed minister of a proselytizing faith to a professorship in a Government College which is pledged to observe religious neutrality. The question is what is meant by a "professed" minister? Has it occurred to our excellent contemporary that the phrase would practically bar professorships to none but Catholic priests, the least likely among the clergy of various Christian denominations to apply for or obtain such posts? "Once a priest always a priest" is our axiom, even if a clergyman foreswear his character and act as a layman; and the axiom can always be urged against a Catholic priest, whether actively engaged in the ministry or not. But among protestant ministers a man is free to put off his ministerial profession with his ministerial livery—and in that case the *Patriot's* position would be turned, without any substantial guarantee that the laicised minister's proselytizing zeal will likewise be laid aside. Protestantism seems to us to have made Christianity stink in Hindu nostrils and to have driven Hinduism into the arms of the pharisees of our day.

What a difference does the above disclose between the Protestant and Roman Catholic priest! We agree with our contemporary that a minister of religion cannot serve both God and Mammon at the same time. The doctrine that "once a priest, always a priest," is therefore sound and righteous.

THE PRIVATE SECRETARY of the Newab-Wikar-ul-Omra writes to the *Times of India* contradicting the story published by that journal about the libel suit instituted on his behalf against Mr. Robert Knight, editor of the *Statesman*.

LORD LYTTON'S defence speech drew a large gathering of strangers to the House of Lords. The London correspondent of the *Indian Herald* gives the following particulars: "Prince Christian was there. He is the Queen's reporter for the House of Lords, and both he and Prince Leopold listened to the speeches with marked attention. Lord Lytton's presence is not imposing. His voice is feeble, more like an echo than the cause of an echo. But his speech was eloquent and well delivered." We propose to notice his speech next week.

WE TAKE from the morning papers the following telegrams of the week:

London January 29.—The Secretary of State for India, replying to a question in the House of Commons, said that the Kandahar railway would not be pressed on pending a decision as to the extent of country to be permanently occupied. Lord Waveney introduced a resolution in the House of Lords urging a permanent occupation of Kandahar. Lord Enfield defended the policy of the Government. After a short discussion the resolution was withdrawn.

The debate in the House of Commons on Mr. Forster's Bills continues, and has been again adjourned. Mr. Gladstone, speaking yesterday, said that the outreges and the Land League in Ireland had developed simultaneously.

31.—The latest advices from Natal state that the S. S. *Crocodile* with the 92nd and 83rd regiments on board, has arrived at Durban. Major Hingeston who was wounded at Langsnek, has since died of his wounds. Second Lieutenant Monck of the 58th is missing.

The *Standard* publishes a paragraph stating that the Indian Government contemplates repealing the Vernacular Press Act shortly.

Mr. Thomas Carlyle is seriously ill.

31.—The Secretary of State for India in reply to a question said that after the evacuation of Kandahar a native representative would be desirable there, as well as at Kabul.

The Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs replying to a question in the House of Lords, said there was no longer any question of a conference on the Greek Frontier Question being held but the negotiations of the Ambassadors continue and the views of the British Government on the subject remain unchanged. He trusted that the pending negotiations would lead to such united action of the Powers as to secure a peaceful solution of the question.

The Secretary of State for War, replying to a question, said that 2,554 men had already arrived at Durban from India. Reinforcements from Gibraltar will arrive there to-morrow, and further reinforcements will arrive on the 10th February, making the total reinforcements 4,500. Those Boers he said who commit no outrages will be treated according to the customs of civilised warfare. The question of their belligerent rights had not been raised.

February 1.—The obstruction in the House of Commons continues and the House, which met on Monday afternoon is still sitting.

2.—The House of Commons is still sitting, but motions for the adjournment of the debate are continually being made by the Obstructionists. Mr. Bright stigmatised the conduct of the Home Rulers as grossly insulting to the House. Government intend proposing a remedy for obstruction very shortly.

The *Daily Telegraph* publishes a paragraph, stating that a despatch has been sent to Calcutta from the India Office authorising the repeal of the Vernacular Press Act.

3.—Mr. Thomas Carlyle is not expected to live.

3.—Mr. Michael Davitt, one of the principal Land Leaguers, has been arrested under a ticket of leave.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Gladstone introduced his resolution that a majority of three-fourths of the House on a motion of urgency gives the speaker supreme control of

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the proceedings. An unexampled tumultuous scene followed ; Mr. Dillon was suspended and forcibly expelled.

3.—8 P. M.—The disorderly scenes in the House of Commons continue. Mr. Parnell has been expelled ; all other Home Rule members who are successively obstructing work of House are each in turn expelled.

4.—The Commons have adopted Mr. Gladstone's resolution in a modified form, after which the House voted a motion of urgency for coercive measures in Ireland. Mr. Parnell has issued a manifesto, in which he advises the people of Ireland to be calm and says that the fight in their behalf in Parliament will be renewed.

4.—Mr. Gladstone, replying to a question enquiring into the import duty on Indian silver work, said he hoped Government would be able to abolish it.

St. Petersburgh, February 3.—A telegram from General Skobeleff states that he had occupied Askabad and that a Russian cavalry division has advanced beyond Askabad as far as Anno.

Constantinople, February 3.—The Turkish Government declines to state beforehand the maximum concession they will make in the rectification of the Greek frontier.

WE HAVE to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the under-mentioned publications and periodicals :

1. Report on the administration of British Burmah for 1879-80. 2. The Indian Jurist Vol. V. No. 1. 3. The Statesman (London Monthly) for January, 1881. 4. The Orient for February, 1881. 5. The Calcutta Magazine for February, 1881. 6. Plain Directions for the treatment of accidents and common complaints by Homœopathic Medicines. By R. K. Mitter & Co, 7. Report on the Chundernagore Pustakagar (Library) from the year October 1879 to September 1880. 8. The Aborigenes' Friend for January, 1881. 9. The Suddarshanna Chintanika or Studies in Indian Philosophy. Vol. 4, No. II. 10. Ourmilla Kabya, a Poem in Bengali. By Debendra Nath Sen. 11. Khetra Sanhita or Practical Agriculture in Hindi. By Protapa Rudra Sinha, Talukdar of Rampur Muthura, Zillah Sithapur, Oudh. 12. Ankaprobesh or Introduction to Arithmetic in Bengali. By Muttylal Dutt. 13. Sagar Prokash or a description of the race of Brahmins. By Bonomally Bhattacharjya. 14. A Catechism of Indian History. By Patrick Mc Guire. 15. The Oriental Miscellany for February 1881. 16. Visuk or the Physician. Vol. I. No. 1. 17. Avash a Bengali periodical. No. 11.

WE HAVE received the following from the Press Commissioner :

In a telegram dated February 4th it is reported from Girishk that dissensions are said to have occurred among the Duranis of Farrah. The preparation to attack the Baluchis and Taj Muhammad Khan, Seistani, have, in consequence, been discontinued. Another report states that two thousand sowars with four guns had left Herat to attack Chakansur, but had been halted at Sabzwar. Ibrahim Khan of Chakansur is said to be on bad terms with the Amir of Ghayn, in consequence of the former's son having made a raid in Persian territory. Taj Muhammad Khan is at Kalah-i-Farh, where Ibrahim Khan has also gone, and the Baluchis unanimously decline to submit to Hashim Khan.

It is reported from Kandahar that the people of Tirin have driven away the robbers who were stopping the roads and are sending in large quantities of grain to Kandahar.

Heavy snow has fallen in and about Herat, whence no news has been received.

All is well with the Maiwand force.

The Alizai chiefs have promised to keep the roads from Zamindawar open and facilitate passage of supplies to Kandahar.

Several highway robberies have taken place near the post of Dabrai, and Captain Muir and Haji Tarbuland Khan, chief of the Achakzais have gone there to take measures for the protection of the road.

Weather in Kandahar fine and cold. Prices unaltered.

INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE CULTIVATION OF SCIENCE.

(210, Bow-Bazar Street.)

LECTURE by the Very Rev. Father Lafont, S. J., C. I. E., on Thursday, the 10th Inst., at 7 P. M.

Subject : The Human Eye as an Optical Instrument.

The Hindoo Patriot.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1881.

THE REPORT OF THE RENT-LAW COMMISSION.

XXVI.

AMONG the minor sections of the report of the Rent Commission is one relating to the law of limitations applicable to rent-suits. As the Commission point out, since 1859 there has been a special law applicable to these suits. Before the passing of the present general Limitation Act, XV of 1877, this special law differed in some important particulars from the general law :—Namely (1) Contrary to the provisions of the general Limitation Act, when the period of limitation expired upon a day upon which the Court was closed, no deduction of time was allowed and the suit might not be instituted on the day that the Court re-opened : (2) Contrary to the provisions of the general Limitation Act, the time might not be deducted, during which a plaintiff was conducting with due diligence another civil proceeding founded on the same cause of action, and prosecuted in good faith in a Court, which from defect of jurisdiction or other cause of a like nature was unable to entertain it : (3) Contrary to the provisions of the general Limitation Act, no deduction of time was allowed for legal disability, *i. e.* minority, lunacy, idiocy : (4) Contrary to the provisions of the general Limitation Act, time was to be computed according to the English calendar : (5) By a parity of reasoning to that upon which the above propositions are based, the provisions of the Limitation Act, which in the computation of the time allowed for appealing permitted a deduction of the time necessary for procuring a copy of the decree and judgment of the lower court, had no application to Rent Cases, although this time was deducted upon the authority of a Circular Order of the Sadr Court. Section 6 of the Limitation Act, (IX) of 1871, enacted as follows :—" When by any law not mentioned in the Schedule hereto annexed and now or hereafter to be in force in any part of British India, a period of limitation differing from that prescribed by this Act is specially prescribed for any suits, appeals or applications, nothing herein contained shall affect such law." Acts X of 1859 and VIII (B.C.) of 1869 are Acts not mentioned in the Schedule here specified, and it was accordingly held that nothing contained in Act IX of 1871 affected these Acts ; therefore the rules as to the computation of the period of limitation contained in Act IX did not affect or apply to Rent Suits. Section 6 of the present Limitation Act (XV of 1877), corresponding with section 6 of Act IX of 1871, is couched in different language :—viz. " When by any special or local law now or hereafter in force in British India a period of limitation is specially prescribed for any suit, appeal or application, nothing herein contained shall affect or alter the period so prescribed." It has been held (I.L.R. 5 Calc. 110) that the effect of this change in the language used is, that the rules prescribed by Act XV of 1877 for computing the period of limitation are applicable—apparently on the ground that rules for computing the period of limitation do not affect the period itself. The Commission have enacted this decision in express terms. As to extension of time for disability the Commission are not in favour of it. They remark : " After due consideration we have come to the conclusion that it is inadvisable to extend to Rent Suits the allowance of time for disability. We think that a minor ought not to be competent on coming of age to sue a ryot for rent which had accumulated during the whole period of his minority ; that this kind of debt, which a poor man usually discharges year by year out of the produce of the year, ought not to be allowed to accumulate ; and that, if the manager of a minor's estate neglects his duty of realizing rent as they fall due, the minor's remedy ought to be an action for damages against such manager." We admit that there is much force in this argument. But there are suits analogous to rent-suits, we mean suits in which ryots are defendants, such as bond suits, suits for damages, and the like, and if the ordinary law of limitation applies to this class of suits allowing time for disability, we do not see why the rent-suits should be placed in a different category. There may be cases in which the ryot and the manager may collude, and surely the former ought to be held as much liable as the latter. It is also observable that the new law will facilitate the deposit of rent by a ryot in court, and if he does not avail himself of the facility afforded by the law he ought to take the consequences.

The Commission have expressly extended to suits and applications under the Rent Law the following portion of the Indian Limitation Act XV. of 1877, namely, (*a*) the explanation to section 4, viz. that a suit is instituted in ordinary cases when the plaint is presented to the proper officer ; in the case of a pauper, when his application for leave to sue is filed ; and in the case of a claim against a company which is being wound up by the Court, when the claimant first sends in his claim to the official liquidator ; (*b*) section 5 as to a suit or application, the period of limitation for which expires on a day when the Court is closed, being admitted on the day that the Court re-opens ; and as to an appeal or application for a review of judgment being admitted after the period of limitation, when the appellant or applicant satisfies the Court that he had sufficient causes for not presenting it in time ; and (c) the whole of Part III relating to the computation of the period of limitation. The Commission have also introduced an important provision to the following effect that when the result of litigation between any persons is such that they are found to stand in the relation of landlord and tenant to each other and to have stood in this relation while such litigation was pending, but, until their mutual rights were finally determined by such litigation, such landlord was unable to sue such tenant for rent, the period of limitation for sueing for any such rent shall be computed from the termination of such litigation. The Commission base their recommendation upon decided cases. In *Rani Swarnamayi* vs. *Shashi mukhi Barmani*, &c. (12 Moor. In. Ap. 244 ; S. C. 2 B. L. R. P. C. 10) the facts were—A *zemindar* had brought a *patni* tenure to sale under Regulation VIII of 1819. The *patnidar* was thereupon ousted and the purchaser took possession of the *patni* tenure. The *patnidar* then successfully sued to have the sale reversed on the ground of irregularity, and recovered possession of the *patni* tenure together with mesne profits from the purchaser for the period of his possession. The *zemindar* subsequently sued the *patnidar* for rent for this period. Such rent was barred, if the period of limitation contained in Act X of 1859 were to be applied without qualification. The Privy Council, however, held that it was not barred—that the cause of action accrued at the time at which, the sale having been set aside, the obligation to pay this rent revived—that the *patnidar* on being restored to possession took back the estate subject to the obligation to pay the rent, and that the particular arrears must be taken to have become due in the year in which that restoration to possession took place. Two points are to be noticed here. *First*, the zemindar could not sue the patnidar for the rent as long as the latter was out of possession : *second* the *patnidar* received mesne profits for the period for which rent was claimed. From this case were distinguished some subsequent cases in which, although the landlord had denied the continuance of the relation of landlord and tenant and had attempted to put an end to such relation, the tenant was nevertheless not dispossessed and there was in consequence nothing to prevent the landlord from recovering the rent. In these cases, although one element, viz. receipt by the tenant of the profits of the land, was present, the other element, viz. inability of the landlord to sue was wanting—(See I. L. R. 3 Calc. 6, 791, 817.)

The chapter on the law of limitation is thus fair enough. The provision we have taken exception to above does not, however, seem to us to be quite equitable. It is not, however, a matter of very great importance, for even if the amendment we have suggested be not accepted, the minor landholder will not be wholly without a remedy as he will have the right to sue the manager for damages.

KANDHAHAR.

LORD HARTINGTON has refused to produce before Parliament Lord Napier of Magdala's minute on Kandhahar, but the *Times* of *India* has published a summary of it. Lord Napier is in favour of the retention of Kandhahar. His Lordship points out the several courses which in his opinion are open to the Government to pursue. They may (1) abandon Kandhahar to any chance ruler; or (2) occupy it in support of a native ruler ; or (3) make it over to the Ameer Abdul Rahman ; or (4) annex the district, or such portion of it, together with the town and fortress, as military or political considerations may render desirable. To pursue the first course, His Lordship says, " would

be to render the district the scene of sanguinary struggles between rival candidates. Ayub Khan might return, or some powerful chief who adhered to the fortunes of Shere Ali, the late Ameer, or those of his sons, might organize an opposition to Abdul Rahman, and overturn the settlement which we have made at Cabul. The return of Ayub Khan, and his successful establishment at Kandhahar, would be the greatest possible discredit to us. He would claim to have driven us away by his defeat of General Burrows, and would be believed by the Afghans. Indeed, it would be partly true." The second course His Lordship hold would be the worst of all. "It has often been tried, and has hardly ever proved successful, and our own recent experience of that plan in Kandhahar itself puts it out of the question." The third course might be adopted, but then the people of Kandhahar and their interests, His Lordship remarks, "are separate and distinct from those of North Eastern Afghanistan. The Kandaharis always wished to be independent, and were only kept in subordination by force. In the event of the Government making over Kandahar to Abdul Rahman, there would be a fight over it, which might end in unseating the recently appointed Ameer. This would entail on us additional disgrace to the disgrace already incurred consequent on our retreating policy. Whatever assurances Afghans may give of protecting our friends, they are hardly likely to carry them out when we are gone. We may try and justify our abandonment of Kandhahar, but we shall do so in the teeth of past experience." As regards the permanent occupation of Kandhahar by our Government His Lordship is of opinion that it is the only alternative left to us. He says, "it may be urged that Kandhahar will require a large force for its defence and the maintenance of its communications, and that the cost will bear heavily on the resources of India. The expenses of the repeated military expeditions that will be the necessary consequence of our retreating behind our old frontiers, however, will cost quite as much without the compensating advantages of the revenue of the annexed province and the consequent extention of commerce. The cost, moreover, is an Imperial question, and considering the advantages of India to England, the latter ought to bear half the cost of the occupation of Kandahar." Here three most important questions are raised. Firstly, that the annexation of Kandahar will be very expensive to India, but this Lord Napier practically ignores when he says that the cost of holding it ought to be equally divided between India and England. As for repeated military expeditions, which His Lordship says our Government will be called upon to undertake, we submit that that point is not clear to us. If His Lordship thinks that the proximity of the Russians to our present frontier will give rise to frequent armed collisions, we fear that contingency cannot be avoided by extending the frontier to Kandhahar. His Lordship remarks, "if the Russian advance in Asia be a reality, if they are already in possession of Bokhara, Samarcand and Tashkend, if they mean to occupy Merv—of which they make no secret—and if there be an easy road to Herat, who can doubt that if we are timid, apathetic or consenting, a few years will see them in possession of a fortress which, in their hands, can be made impregnable, and will command the road to India. It is difficult to believe that any one can be blind to the danger to India of a little extension of the alliance which actually existed between the Russians and Ameer Shere Ali. Some think that the difficulties of a mountainous country are a sufficient protection, but these would vanish before science." But may we venture to ask whether our occupation of Kandhahar will prevent a collision with Russia. If we extend the base of our operations to Kandhahar, our defence will become much more difficult and expensive. In the event of a war between Russia and our Government on the borders of Kandhahar, we must mass our troops from India, for it cannot be contended that the troops which may be permanently stationed at Kandhahar will suffice for resistance in such a struggle, and the greater the length of our defence the greater will be our difficulties and expense. The frontier tribes cannot be trusted at such a crisis, and a sufficient military strength must be maintained at our old frontiers to over-awe these wild and tubulent men. Of course we speak with diffidence on such a purely military question as this, particularly when our opinion is opposed to that of a veteran soldier-statesman like Lord Napier of Magdala, but to our common sense it is not at all clear that in the event of a rupture between Russia and England it will be safer to fight the Muscovite from Kandhahar than from our present frontier. Lord Napier continues: "For more than 800 years, the Afghans have looked upon India as a field for plunder. Whenever they were prosperous they were always looking to recover the dominion which they once held, and of which, after the decline of the Moghul dynasty, the Mahrattas and Sikhs deprived them. Russia, again, was actually moving a force to cooperate with Ameer Shere Ali when war between Russia, and ourselves was imminent. To those who know the whole of the circumstances, it is plain that the Affghan war was an act of self-defence. It is true that we at first declared war against the Ameer and not the Afghan people, but the treacherous murder of our Envoy after the Treaty of Gundamuk, and the defence of that act by the bulk of the Afghan people, placed the war on a new footing, and gave us a right of conquest, including a right to dispose of Kandahar in any way we thought fit, in satisfaction of the injury done us." We donot deny the right of conquest, but the question is whether it is expedient for our Government to enforce that right. The army of India must be largely increased, an unproductive Railway must be maintained, an unremunerative province must be kept up, and a by no means peaceful people must be held under subjection, if Kandahar is to be declared a part of the British dominion. As for Affghan thirst for Indian gold it is not a new passion, but our Government is quite strong to put it down with a strong hand. It may be said that the Ruler of Kabul like Ameer Shere Ali may play himself into the hands of the Czar, but that contingency cannot be avoided by our occupation of Kandhahar. On the contrary it is quite within the range of probability that the Kandhaharis would be always eager to shake off our yoke, and that if they find a chance by a misunderstanding between us and the Russians they will only be too ready to seize it. The question of cost is after all the most crushing one. Lord Napier, as we have remarked above, practically admits that the resources of India are not sufficient to bear the increased burden. He therefore proposes that it should be equally divided between India and England. But will England consent to this arrangement? We fear not. It should be borne in mind that it is not the mere cost of maintenance of Kandhahar, which will have to be taken into account. The cost of future armed demonstrations must be met, and will England voluntarily acknowledge the joint partnership with India for the maintenance of peace on the Kandhahar frontier? We are therefore inclined to think that the non-intervention policy is the best, which the Government can follow in reference to Kandhahar under existing circumstances.

THE POLICY OF THE NEW RENT LAW.

UNDER this head the last number of the *Calcutta Review* contains an article by *A District Officer*, which is professedly a reply to the powerful article of Babu Ashutosh Mookerjea on the new Rent Bill published in the previous number of the same periodical. Babu Ashutosh Mookerjea is quite able to defend his own position, and we therefore leave it to him to answer the article in detail. But we will touch upon one or two salient points. The writer raises the old question of proprietary right in the soil in Bengal. He quotes Menu, Mahomedan law, and English state papers and records, and comes to the conclusion that the zemindars had no proprietory right whatever, that it was a gift of the British Government, and that it is within the competency of that Government as the ruling power to modify the terms of that gift. We have so often discussed these questions in these columns that to reiterate our facts and arguments would be simply tiresome. *A District Officer* has not evidently studied the question with care or an unbiassed mind. He seems to labour under a strange confusion of ideas. He forgets that in the primeval state of society, when the early Hindu institutions were formed, ideas about property in the soil did not receive that developement, which is observable at the present day, that the population being small it did not at all press upon the land, that the soil naturally belonged to him who tilled it, that rights of property grew up gradually, that what was originally a tribal or communal right eventually passed into the hands of individuals, that in this way even in days of Hindu kings *gramodhicars* or lords of villages and *desadhicars* or lords of tracts of country came to be recognized, that the individual right, a gradual evolution, was pretty strongly established when the Mahomedans took possession of the country, that it was confirmed by them according to their own laws, though there was much irregularity owing to the absence of strict administrative discipline under the Mahomedan system, and that when the British Government settled the land revenue, they found the individual landlord right in thorough practical operation. All this is abundantly clear from tradition and the early records of our Government. There have been always two parties in this matter, one maintaining that the zemindars were merely collectors of revenue, and the other that they were proprietors of the soil. It is enough to say that the authors of the Permanent Settlement had accepted the latter view and acted upon it. Only the other day we discussed the question of the proprietary right of the zemindar in our article IX of the series on the report of the Rent-Law Commission, in which we quoted high authorities to shew that that right was absolute, hereditary and transferable. We cited Mr. Rouse, whose book contains the most irrefragable evidence on the subject. Referring to land settlement under the Mahomedans and in the early days of British rule he remarks: "The same internal mode of administration was continued, and the landholders felt no material change. Even in 1769, when a local scrutiny into the lands was instituted, no idea was held out, that the zemindaries were not hereditary. In the year 1773 the Bengal Government thought it right to ascertain the laws and usages of the country upon this important article so as to lay down an established rule in all cases, that might occur. For this purpose, they framed four questions in writing, which were proposed to certain distinguished natives who were thought qualified from their eminent situations and known experience, to furnish just and respectable solutions." Four distinguished Pundits were referred to as the expounders of the Hindu laws. Mahomed Reza Khan, Naib Subah of Bengal was appealed to for the law of the Koran, and the policy of the Mogul conquerors; and Rajah Shitab Roy, Naib of Patna, for an exposition of the custom in Behar. We gave *in extenso* the answers of Newab Mahomed Reza Khan and Raja Shitab Roy, and also of the four learned pundits of Bengal, who had been referred to, and their united testimony was that the zemindars were proprietors of the soil, that their right was absolute, hereditary, and transferable. After examining all official records and early history Mr. Rouse remarks: "It seems to me to result indisputably from the deductions of history contained in the foregoing pages, that zemindars, as persons possessing land either in their own right, or by successive renovation of grant, are of a considerable, perhaps of high antiquity, but that the present Sunnud, upon which only their title to their land has generally been supposed to rest, is of comparatively modern institution." But the sunnud did not override existing rights. As Mr. Rouse truly says: "Even the bold Barons of England when they presented their claims to king John, which ended in the grant of *magna charta*, did not demand the privilege of disposing of their property to any persons whatever, without restraint or exception; but only "in favor of their relations, and their daughters, sisters, and nieces, to any body but who was the king's enemy." I do not see that any greater power is reserved by the Indian system, in the renovation of the zemindary grants." Again: "Even rebellion itself, which in our own country was constantly interpreted after the Norman conquest, to put an end to inheritance, was not applied with the same rigor, under the Mogul emperors. For when the old zemindar was dis-

possessed, or even put to death for crimes against the state; or his zemindary escheated for want of heir; the land was not taken by government, and given to tenants *in capite*, as they were called in England under the maxim introduced by king John, "that he held the land in right of his crown, as it was originally derived from thence and consequently that the tenants of the former lord, instead of *intermediate* became *immediate* tenants of the crown." But the land, with its former divisions and I believe the same rent was granted to a new zemindar with exactly the same tenure and jurisdiction as the preceding incumbent. The inferior proprietors and tenants of the zemindary passed over to the new zemindar without any alterations; unlike those of an escheated English lordship, who were thrown into much worse state by being considered as tenants *in capite*." If *A District Officer* had read the papers and records we refer to, we feel convinced that he would not have at this time of day raised the question of proprietory right in the soil in Bengal. We will, however, answer him in the words of no less an authority than Sir FitzJames Stephen, who as Law Member of the Governor-General's Council, once tackled the question of the Permanent Settlement in his usual masterly way. He was no friend to that Settlement, but he brought close juridical reasoning to bear upon it. He said:

I have examined a considerable number of papers on the question, many of which are contained in the well-known Fifth Report of the Select Committee on the affairs of the East India Company, and in the Appendix to it, published in 1812, when the question of the renewal of the Company's Charter, which took place in 1813, was under consideration. Others are to be found elsewhere; but it appears to me that the pith of the discussion from which the Permanent Settlement resulted is to be found in the papers to which I have referred, and particularly, in the extremely elaborate productions of Lord Teignmouth (then Mr. Shore) and Mr. James Grant, and in the shorter but not less remarkable Minutes of Lord Cornwallis. The study of these documents and of the Permanent Settlement itself leave no room at all, as it appears to me, for doubt as to its purport.

Before I discuss the terms of the Regulation in which the Permanent Settlement is contained, I will give very shortly some account of the controversy which led to it. Two principal questions were discussed: the question, what was the position of the zemindars? and the question, whether it was desirable to make the settlement with them permanent? It was maintained on the one hand, and in particular by Mr. Shore, afterwards Lord Teignmouth, that the zemindars were proprietors of the soil, subject, however, to the payment to the Government of a demand which had been considerably enlarged on many occasions, since the assessment made by the Tury Mull, the Minister of Akbar. Mr. Shore's opinion, as to the position of the zemindars is stated in these words of his Minute:—

I cannot but consider the zemindars as the proprietors of the soil, to the property of which they succeed by the right of inheritance, according to the laws of their own religion and that the sovereign authority cannot justly exercise the power of depriving them of the succession nor of altering it when there are any legal heir. The privilege of disposing of the land by sale or mortgage is derived from this fundamental right, and was exercised by the zemindars before we acquired the Dewany."

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"372. The revenues of the land belong to the ruling power, which being absolute, claimed and exercised the right of determining the proportion to be taken for the State."

Mr. Grant, on the other hand, contended that the State, and not the zemindars, was the proprietor of the land.

"The sovereign ruler in all parts of Hindustan, if not through the whole of Asia, unless it be in the Russian dominions, is declared to be the sole virtual proprietor of the soil; not in the European feudal acceptation of the term, agreeable to which it hath lately been attempted to be qualified implying a fictitious tenure as lord paramount from whom all lesser holdings are supposed to be derived by every class of subjects, but in right and fact, the real acting landlord entitled to and receiving from the ryots or husbandmen a certain portion of the gross yearly returns of the country in money or kind, fixed on a medium in Bengal at one-fourth of the whole produce."

I need not refer to the prolonged and detailed investigations by which these views respectively were supported, nor to the different practical inferences drawn from them by those who held them. I pass over these matters which, though of much interest on various accounts, do not bear on the point now immediately before the Council—the meaning of the pledge subsequently given—and I turn to the Minutes recorded on the subject by Lord Cornwallis. Upon reading these Minutes it is, I think, quite impossible not to perceive that the great object which Lord Cornwallis had in view was that of creating property in land. He was perfectly well aware of the difficulties of the subject. He was repeatedly warned by his various advisers of the extremely intricate state of things with which he had to deal; but he was immovably convinced that the introduction of the English system of permanent property in land and the English relation of landlord and tenant was the one thing essential to the prosperity of Bengal. I will read two passages—one from a Minute of Mr. Shore, the other from a Minute of Lord Cornwallis which set this in a very clear light.

In a Minute, dated 8th December 1789, Mr. Shore observes:

"The most cursory observation shows the situation of things in this country to be singularly confused. The relation of a zemindar to Government, and of a ryot to a zemindar is neither that of a proprietor nor a vassal, but a compound of both. The former performs acts of authority unconnected with proprietory right, the latter has rights without real property. And the property of the one and the right of the other are, in a great measure, held at discretion. Such was the system which we found, and which we have been under the necessity adopting. Much time will, I fear, elapse before we can establish a system perfectly consistent in all its parts; and before we can reduce the compound relation of a zemindar to Government, and of a ryot to a zemindar, to the simple principles of landlord and tenant."

In his previous Minute of 18th September 1789, Lord Cornwallis had said:—

"Although I am not only of opinion that the zemindars have the best right, but from being persuaded that nothing could be so ruinous to the public interest, as that the land should be retained as the property of Government, I am also convinced that failing the claim of right of the zemindars, it would be necessary for the public good to grant a right of property in the soil to them or to persons of other descriptions. I think it unnecessary to enter into any discussion of the grounds upon which their right appears to be founded."

And so the Permanent Settlement was concluded. As the *Calcutta Reviewer* wishes that we should not confine ourselves to the four corners of the Regulations but should interpret them in the light of the writings of the authors of the Settlement and of their subsequent expounders, we refer him to the above for the exposition of the law. Let us see how the Settlement was interpreted by subsequent authorities. Some alarm being caused in the minds of the zemindars by the enactment of Regulation I. of 1818 for the appointment of Canongoes and Patwaries, Mr. Holt Mackenzie, Secretary to Government, was directed to write in a letter dated the 22nd of April 1819: "But it is the firm determination of Government to maintain inviolate the rights and privileges bestowed on the zemindars by that settlement, notwithstanding any errors or abuses that may now be discovered to have been practised, and although the profits of any one from his estate should be many lacs and his jumma only a few rupees, yet Government will on no pretence break its agreements." In Vol. I. Moore's Indian Appeals, p. 348, Lord Lyndhurst observed—"it is to be gleaned from these regulations that the proprietors of land in India had an absolute ownership and dominion of the soil, that the soil was not vested generally in the sovereign, that the proprietors did not hold it at the will of the sovereign, but held the property as their own, . . . I think it is impossible to read those articles without coming to the conclusion that the zemindars and talukdars were owners of the soil subject only to a tribute and that it was the object of the Regulations "to make that tribute fixed and pemanent." And in a case decided by the late Sudder Dewany Adwalut on the 20th of May 1848 the Judges remarked: "It is a narrow and contracted view to suppose that the Permanent Settlement consists in nothing more than the obligation on the part of the Zemindar to pay a certain amount of revenue annually to Government. The settlement is a compact by which the Zemindar engages on his part to pay a fixed amount of revenue to the State and the State on its part gaurantees to the Zemindar, by means of its judicial and fiscal administration, the integrity of the assets from which that revenue is derived, and which in fact constitute the Government's own security for the realization of its revenue. The declaration to the zemindars and other proprietors of land that the jumma assessed upon their lands is fixed for ever carries with it by necessary implication of a rule of the nature laid down in Section 10, Regulation 19, 1793."

But the *Reviewer* denies that the Permanent Settlement is a contract between the State and the zemindars. On this point he will not perhaps refuse to attach some weight to the opinion of Sir FitzJames Stephen. That learned gentleman thus spoke in the Legislative Council:

In considering the question of the moral right of the Government to alter the arrangements made at the Permanent Settlement, it appears to me that the leading consideration to be kept in view is as follows. We are not a representative Government. With every wish on the part of every member of the Government to use his powers for the benefit of those whose interests they affect, it is impossible not to feel at every turn how great are the differences between the governors and the governed, and how supremely important it is for all parties that whatever else the people of the country may feel about their rulers, they should feel perfect confidence in their good faith and in their scrupulous observance of their promises. A really representative Government may deal with the pledges of their predecessors in a very different way from a Government like ours. If Parliament, representing, as it does, the views and feelings of the population of the United Kingdom, should see fit to reopen the question of the Scotch and English Church establishments, it would be absurd to say that they were debarred from doing so by the Act of Queen Anne. They are themselves the representatives of the descendants of those by whom the Act of Union was passed, and they have the same moral right to undo what their predecessors did in a matter affecting the English nation for the time being as a man has to reconsider resolutions which he has made at any particular period of his life as to his own subsequent conduct, in matters in which he has entered into no contract with others. We, on the other hand are in a position more nearly resembling that of a person who has made a contract to his release from which the consent of the other party is necessary. Those to whom we succeed, and whose policy laid the foundations of the power which we possess deliberately gave to a large and influential class of the population over which we exercise that power a pledge on the faith of which relations have grown up which modify the whole frame-work of society. I do not say that these arrangements can never be altered. I do not say that Lord Cornwallis and his colleagues had the power to make an everlasting decree which could never be broken. I carefully avoid the expression of any opinion whatever as to the wisdom or as to the effects of his policy; but I do say as emphatically as I can that the Permanent Settlement ought to be scrupulously observed, both in letter and spirit till the natives of the country the descendants or representatives of those with whom it was made express in some distinct unequivocal manner their deliberate and general wish that the question should be reopened.

Further remarks on this subject are quite superfluous. So much for the two points that the zemindars were not originally proprietors of the soil, and that the Permanent Settlement was not a contract. The third point is that the Government had reserved to itself the right of interfering between the zemindar and the ryot for the protection of the latter. No one denies the right of the Government as the ruling power to enact laws for the protection of any class of its subjects, but as Mr. Holt Mackenzie wrote, "it is the firm determination of Government to maintain inviolate the rights and privileges bestowed on the zemindars by that settlement, notwithstanding any errors or abuses that may now be discovered to have been practised, and although the profits of any one from his estate should be many lacs and his jumma only a few rupees, yet the Government will on no pretence break its agreements." And the zemindars are, therefore, perfectly justified in complaining of want of faith, if the "rights and privileges" thus guaranteed be violated by Government on any "pretence" whatever. The *Reviewer* quotes some minutes of the authors of the Settlement against the levy of abwabs by zemindars. We do not defend these abwabs or cesses, but where they have become a part of rent, they cannot now be altered. By all means put down all illegalities and oppressions, for however jealous we may be of any encroachment upon the Permanent Settlement, we do not mean that that charter should cover illegalities and oppressions. But it is one thing to enforce law for the ends of justice, and another thing to change the substantive law to encompass fancied justice.

One word more. It is often said that the Permanent Settlement has done no good to the country. We wish those, who maintain this opinion, would read what the authors of the Permanent Settlement said when they adopted that great measure. The Right Hon'ble Mr. Dundas, when he laid the Proclamation of the Permanent Settlement before the House of Commons in 1792 for confirmation, remarked:

That Bengal, even under the best European Government, must be, from the necessary effect of its political situation, a declining country. That the ruin of distant provinces, so circumstanced, might be accelerated by abuses, or retarded by prudence and honesty in the administration of its Government, but sooner or later it must happen. In support of this opinion, founded on his own observation and experience, as well as on all the general considerations that belonged to such a subject he should content himself with appealing to the specific evidence of Lord Cornwallis, who, in a letter to the Court of Directors, dated 2nd August, 1789, had given them the following material information:—"I am sorry to say, that agriculture and internal commerce has, for many years, been gradually declining, and that at present, excluding, the class of shroffs and Banians, who reside almost entirely in great towns, the inhabitants of that provinces were advancing hastily to a general state of poverty and wretchedness, and in this description, I must include almost every zemindar in the Company's service." In another Minute, dated 18th September, 1789, Lord Cornwallis said, "I can safely assert, that one-third of the Company's territory in Hindostan is now a jungle inhabited by wild beasts."

Such was the condition of the country anterior to the Permanent Settlement, and the reader knows what it is at the present day. Bengal is now the richest province of the empire its revenues amount to nearly twenty millions per annum; its peasantry are far more prosperous than that of any other province, its trade has developed wonderfully, and its industry is expanding on all sides. The zemindars as a body were in the early days of British rule not much

above the common run of humanity in those days, but their character is now changed. The *Reviewer* himself says:

> The zemindars, too, have not the power for evil which they had in times of less watchful and efficient administration; and it is perhaps but just to say, that many among them have still less disposition for it than they have power. Official papers now, happily, often exhibit to us instances of liberality and public spirit; and though these are few, considering the magnitude of the country and of its population, they are sufficient to indicate that the zemindars are beginning to realize their duties. We are often told that these good deeds have their origin in ostentation, or still more often in a selfish desire that the doers may obtain honours or consideration from the Government; we do not care to enquire how far this charge can be justified; it cannot be always true, and even where it is, we must remember that "hypocrisy is the tribute paid by vice to virtue," and that much has been gained in Bengal when such a tribute is deemed necessary. The standard of conduct for zemindars is not now what it was a hundred, fifty, or even twenty years ago.

If the objects of the authors of the Permanent Settlement have been thus realised, then why inveigh against the Settlement, and arbitrarily interfere with the Regulations, which have produced such beneficent results? We pause for a reply.

MR. CAIRD ON THE CONDITION OF INDIA.

II.

In our last article on this subject we gave a summary of the proposals contained in Mr. Caird's Report on the condition of India, and we now proceed to discuss those proposals. In the first place, Mr. Caird recommends the abolition of the Central or Supreme Government which he thinks, meddles in matters of local administration to the detriment of the country and people, and he advocates decentralization of authority. His scheme is that several Local Governments should have full power in their own territories and should be subordinate direct to the Secretary of State in London, the Governor of Bengal being allowed power to summon the other Governors to a general council in matters of importance. He would abolish the Supreme Legislative Council and have local legislatures with full power to make laws for their respective provinces. The Government of India is strongly opposed to Mr. Caird's scheme, and we feel bound to say that, so far as this question is concerned, its position is unassailable. There is no novelty in Mr. Caird's proposal to do away with the Supreme Government. It was made by Mr. John Bright some years ago. But the scheme though framed by such an eminent statesman as Mr. Bright admittedly is, cannot be carried out in practice. As the Government of India point out, the arrangement which Mr. Caird advocates would be almost exactly that which obtained towards the end of the last century, and which was condemned as unworkable. It may be urged that in those days there were no telegraphs and that communication with England occupied such a long time that it was found absolutely necessary to make the several provinces subordinate to a Central or Supreme Government. We are quite willing to attach to this argument the force which is justly due to it; but so long as India is not placed on the same footing as Australia, its affairs must be controlled by a Supreme Government. The Government of India says: "The army, the railways, the customs duties, the opium and the salt revenue, the post office, the relations with Foreign States, whether feudatory or beyond the confines of India, must always be directed by some central authority. The management of these branches of public affairs cannot be parcelled out among the several Governments. The financial arrangements of India must also be directed by some central authority, for some provinces are rich and yield a large surplus, while others are poor and cannot pay their way. Funds for carrying on the Government of the poorer provinces, for the army, for the payment of interest of the public debt, for meeting the Home charges, must be found from a common purse for all India; the necessary control in such matters could not be adequately exercised from an office in London." These objections have very great weight. When it has not yet been found practicable to abolish the Supreme Government of the Dominion of Canada, the proposal to do away with the Central Government of India cannot be entertained. But though the Supreme or Central Government of India cannot be abolished as suggested by Mr. Caird, there ought to be no difficulty in carrying out a system of complete financial decentralization. The so-called decentralization scheme adopted by Lord Mayo in 1870-71 and extended by Lord Lytton in 1877-78 is no decentralization at all. It is nothing than a ticcadari system as the Hon'ble Maharaja Joteendra Mohun Tagore has happily termed it. A thorough and complete measure of financial decentralization is not incompatible with the existence of a Central or Supreme Government. The Government of India, in their despatch on Mr. Cairds' Report, emphatically express their decided approval of Sir John Strachey's Provincial services scheme, but then we must not forget that the real author of that despatch, as we have remarked, was the late Finance Minister himself. The so-called decentralization system is a mere farce, when the Government of Bengal is not permitted to apply its resources to the construction of railways, though Sir Ashley Eden has done his best to obtain such permission. The only consequence of Sir John Strachey's decentralization scheme has been an immense increase of local burdens. Within the last decade there has been in Bengal alone an increase of local taxation by about a million, and in all India by more than three millions sterling. It should be steadily kept in view that whether a tax is imposed by the Supreme Government, or by the Local Government, its effect upon the tax-payer is all the same. He has to pay the tax whether its proceeds find their way into the imperial exchequer or into the local treasury. When the finances of the Empire are really decentralized, it is but fair that the people subject to the several Local Governments should be allowed some voice in the administration of the provincial revenues.

There is undoubtedly great room for the improvements of our Legislative Councils. Though we do not agree with Mr. Caird in thinking that the Supreme Legislative Council should be abolished, we do not hesitate to affirm that, as present constituted the Legislative Councils, Supreme as well as local, are so many shams. In too many cases they merely register the edicts of the Executive Government. The present system of the Legislative Councils was introduced by the Act of 1861, and its most important feature was the admission of non-official members, European and Native, into the Councils. This important experiment has been in operation for twenty years, and it is time that the defects which it has exposed in the new system should be remedied. These defects are very serious, indeed. In the first place, the non-official members being entirely dependent on Government for their selection have not unfrequently with a few exceptions here and there shown readiness to shape their opinion with reference to the views of the Government. They cannot, therefore, give expression to the thoughts and feelings of the people they are supposed to represent. In the second place, as the Councils are at present constituted the non-official element being in a standing minority, cannot influence the deliberations of the Council. Even when they give expression to the feelings and wants of the people, their utterances have little practical effect. Whenever the Executive Government is determined to carry a measure through the Legislature there is nothing to prevent its doing so. Such a state of things cannot certainly be considered satisfactory. If the Government is really desirous of ascertaining the wants and wishes, opinions and feelings of the people with a view to framing laws suited to the circumstances of the country, the constitution of the Legislative Councils should be considerably altered. Something should be done, some means devised whereby a representation of the people may be secured in the Legislative Councils. The easiest way of accomplishing this is to do away with the present disproportion between the official and non-official members, to concede to the Municipal Boards of the Presidency towns and of a few other principal towns, the right of electing a fair proportion of non-official members and to extend the scope of the deliberations of the Councils so as to include financial matters, in regard to which the tax-payers of India have no voice whatever. The Government of India, in their despatch on Mr. Caird's Report, of course, express their decided opinion that the present constitution of the Legislative Councils leaves nothing to be desired. But it may be stated without exaggeration that the practical working of the present system of making laws has given rise to widespread discontent. Again, the provision in Cap. 3 of 33 Vict. which empowers the Executive Government to enact regulations for the backward parts of the country without laying the same before the Legislative Council should be repealed. It is a retrograde measure and its practical working will do much mischief.

In the second place, Mr. Caird suggests that the Central Department of Public Works should at once be abolished, the control of public works being left entirely to Local Governments. He also recommends that the investment of British capital should be fostered; that the employment of Native engineers should be encouraged; and that railways should be constructed by private enterprise with a Government guarantee of 3 per cent., on the capital outlay. We quite concur with Mr. Caird that the Central Public Works Department should be done away with. The Imperial Public Works Department had become a heavy burden on the finances of the Empire; and though it has of late been somewhat curtailed, it is still an overgrown establishment. We have so recently discussed in these columns the whole subject connected with the Public Works Department that we will not recur to it. The waste in the Indian Public Works Department is immense and notorious. The Government of India in their criticisms on Mr. Caird's Report observe that at present the main duties of the Central Public Works staff are connected with railways, military works, telegraphs, and undertakings constructed with borrowed funds. Now, all these works can be executed by the various Provincial Public Works Departments. The Military Works Branch of the Public Works Department came into existence only a few years ago. Before its creation no difficulty had been experienced in the construction of military buildings. There are separate Railway and Telegraph Departments under their respective Directors-General. The works undertaken with borrowed money can be constructed by the Provincial Public Works Departments, more especially as the responsibility of Local Governments for works of local utility have now been enforced. On the subject of employment of Native engineers the Government of India make the following observations: "In some provinces and in some branches of work, for instance on local works in the Bengal Province, Native Engineers are largely employed. But hitherto, in consequence of the large number of Europeans engaged in past years, of the recent contraction of our Public Works expenditure and of the large supply of young engineers from the Royal College at Cooper's Hill, we have not been able to employ so many Native engineers as we could wish. When the supply of recruits for the Engineer Department from England is reduced, we hope to engage regularly every year a large number of Natives who have passed through the Engineering Colleges at Roorki, Calcutta and Poona. We are gradually increasing the number of Natives employed as drivers, stokers, and guards in the guaranteed and State Railways, at the same time we admit that the number of Native employes in our Public Works Department ought to be larger than it is." Now, we would ask when does the Supreme Government expect a reduction in the supply of recruits for the Engineer Department from England? So long as the Cooper's Hill institution exists, this supply from England will always exceed the demand, and the promise that a large number of Native engineers will be employed in the Indian Public Works Department is utterly meaningless. Like every other promise about the larger employment of Natives in the public service made within the last fifty years, it will be more honoured in its breach than in its observance. The Government of India admit that the number of Native employes in the Public Works Department ought to be larger than it is, but when will they increase the number of such employes? We confess we do not understand Mr. Caird when he says that investment of British capital in India

should be encouraged. As a matter of fact, the Indian Government gives every possible facility and encouragement to the investment of English capital in the country. English capitalists, as the Government of India point out, "have received exceptional facilities and help in the tea districts and in undertakings elsewhere." Valuable waste lands have been sold to tea-planters for a mere song; and English indigo-planters receive an amount of support which they would never have got had they not belonged to the ruling race. English capitalists may think that the laws of the country are too much in favour of the Indian labourer as against the British employer; but then, as the Government of India observe, our laws merely protect the weak against the strong, and in so doing merely follow the example set by all British labour importing colonies.

SIR RICHARD TEMPLE ON EDUCATION IN INDIA.

AN abstract of the address recently given by Sir Richard Temple on the effects of Western Education on the Natives of India, has been published in the current number of the Journal of the National Indian Association. The address, speaking generally, is characterised by a breadth of view which we cannot too highly admire. Sir Richard Temple divides the education given to the people of India into direct and indirect; and by direct education he means that education which is afforded by the State. Direct education Sir Richard again divides into the following four heads:—(1) intellectual; (2) moral; (3) scientific; (4) practical and technical. Intellectual education, he observes, has been afforded with considerable success; and he approvingly quotes the opinion expressed by Lord Northbrook in his memorable Birmingham speech that, very few European foreigners ever spoke English so well as the Natives of India do. Instruction in ethics and moral philosophy is not directly given by the State; but intellectual education affords moral education incidentally to a great extent. Sir Richard Temple, however, thinks that moral education ought to have more attention. We do not exactly understand how this suggestion can be carried out. The State in India very rightly acts upon the principle of perfect neutrality in religious matters. We know that Sir Richard, like his great master the late Lord Lawrence, is strongly in favour of the introduction of the Bible in Government schools and Colleges. But the project on which the overrated Punjabi statesman had set his heart was abandoned after mature consideration. Sir Richard Temple does not condescend to explain how direct moral instruction can be given in the schools supported by the State in this country. Moral education is directly afforded in missionary schools and colleges; yet we do not see much difference from a moral point of view, between the students of these two kinds of educational institutions. Scientific education is still in its infancy in this country. It is confined to instruction in two of the applied sciences, medical science and the science of civil engineering, in both of which great success has been attained. Sir Richard Temple says:—"The Medical Colleges have turned out numbers of medical men, and medical schools are being established year after year in different provinces and districts, where hundreds of licentiates, or certificated hospital assistants, apothecaries, &c., are trained. Much success, too, had been attained as to civil engineering. Overseers and assistant overseers as well as civil engineers were receiving special education. Much, then, is being done in respect of these applied sciences." Sir Richard should have added in common fairness that education in the science of civil engineering has received a serious check since the establishment of the Cooper's Hill Royal Indian Engineering College. He, however, takes up an unassailable position when he contends that much more ought to be done in respect to the teaching of science generally. He says:—"Many think that the great thing to be aimed at is to give a general education, leaving students then to choose any profession and also any science that they prefer. That sounds most reasonable. But there seems to be a fallacy in regard to such a course. A young man has but three to five years in which to qualify himself for the science or profession in which his life will be spent, so these years should be spent in preparation for it." We fully concur in this view. Sir Richard Temple then shows that as regards practical or technical education very little worthy of the name has been done. Sir Richard himself, while Governor of Bombay, encouraged scientific and practical education. Sir Ashley Eden has also taken an important step in the direction of affording technical instruction by the establishment of the Seebpore Civil Engineering College. But much more should be done in the matter of scientific and practical education in this country.

Under the head of indirect education, Sir Richard Temple dwells on the educational influences of the British laws and institutions, which have been introduced by the Government. The cadastral survey, the registration of documents, the working of the Penal Code, the humanity which marks the management of prisons, the introduction of preventive sanitary measures, the establishment of hospitals and other charitable institutions and the organization of systems of relief in times of famine, these and similar measures have, to Sir Richard Temple's thinking, been exercising an important educational influence on the people of India. On the other hand, the judicial and revenue systems introduced by our rulers have been demoralizing them to a very great extent. But Sir Richard Temple conveniently overlooks or ignores this consideration. He speaks of the educational effect arising from the exercise of public functions and railway travelling. He asserts that the municipalities are almost entirely managed by native members. This assertion is wholly opposed to fact. The real truth is that except in the Presidency Towns the municipalities as well other local committees, such as, School Committees, Road Cess Committees, Dispensary Committees, are entirely managed by their official members. The working of the local committees instead of benefiting the people of India, is causing much mischief. It is suppressing all independence and manly bearing among our countrymen, and thereby producing a depressing effect on them. The result of the introduction of railways has certainly been most beneficial. When railways were first constructed in this country grave doubts were entertained as to whether Brahmins and the low castes would travel together in the same carriage. But the prejudices of the Brahmins have vanished into the thin air. Again, railway travelling has been strengthening the intellect of the people and opening out their minds. The Post Office and the Electric Telegraph have likewise been producing an important educational effect. Sir Richard Temple thus concludes his remark on indirect education: "Lastly, there is one more class of influence—the æsthetic. One way in which our Government can exercise educational influence in this direction is by taking care that the simplest buildings shall be artistically constructed. It must be sorrowfully admitted that this opportunity has been very much neglected or wasted in India. Most of the buildings we have raised are of the plainest and ugliest description, and must exercise a most depressing effect. It is satisfactory that there is some improvement in this respect." We hope our Public Works Department will digest these remarks.

Sir Richard Temple, in the last place, speaks of the particular result which Western education is producing and may be expected to produce. "Western education," he remarks, "will strengthen their mental stamina, will, so to speak, harden their muscles and reduce the adipose or fatty matter of their minds. Next there will be, and indeed there is already, a great elevation in the standard of moral rectitude. When Mr. Hodgson Pratt and he (Sir Richard Temple) went first to India they could not have expected to live to see such a blessed change. In those days corruption and such like faults were rife among public servants. Now the native high officials are just as honest and trustworthy as English gentlemen. He ventured to think that no result was equal to this, and he deemed it his duty to bear emphatic testimony to the fact. He had often asked natives to what they attributed the change, and they ascribed it mainly to English education. No doubt there is much improvement in the arrangements of the public services, but education has had a great share in the matter." These observations, the accuracy of which cannot be questioned by any person acquainted with the circumstance of the country, give force to the remarks we made in our last issue on the subject of the employment of educated natives in the public service in the Upper Provinces. The appointment of English educated young men to offices in the subordinate judicial and executive services would not only foster and encourage higher education in Upper India, but would also improve the tone and efficiency of the public service. Sir Richard Temple we are glad to see, is not one of those who think that Western education makes the Natives of India disloyal to the British Government. He observes: "There are persons who think there is a good deal of disloyalty among the educated classes in India. He was not prepared to affirm that none are disloyal. But as to those who feel disloyal, let their own consciences condemn them; he believed that there were very few such, and that there would have been more who are disloyal if there were no education. The great majority are thoroughly loyal to the British Government, and the way to make them permanently loyal is to bind them into connection with Western ideas." We commend these thoughtful remarks to the careful consideration of the supporters of the movement for orientalising education in the Upper Provinces. No one is more fully aware than the English educated Natives of India of the mighty power and the inexhaustible resources of the British Empire, and no one knows better than he that his countrymen, and more particularly the educated classes, have every thing to lose and nothing to gain by a change of masters.

THE INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE.

MR. ELLIOTT'S appointment to the Chief Commissionership of Assam has raised the question whether the quality of the Civilian element in the Bengal Service is deteriorating or not. We must confess that the tendency for the last ten years has been in the direction of deterioration. Mr. Cotterell Tupp's book is a valuable guide to the examination of this fact. We find that during the ten years, 1856-65 out of the first ten men in each year *i. e.* out of 100 in all, 31 came to Bengal, 17 went to Madras and Bombay, leaving 52 to be distributed between the North-West, the Punjab, and the Central Provinces. The distribution between the different provinces was practically in proportion to the strength of the service in each, and was not specially influenced by any preference for the North-West. On the contrary, if we take only the first five men in each year, we see that out of these 50 men, 20 went to Bengal, 5 to Madras and Bombay, and 25 to the other provinces. Out of the 30 men made up by the first three of each year Bengal claims 14, Madras and Bombay 3, and the other Provinces only 13. Of the ten first men Bengal had five. From these figures it is clear that on the test of examinations Bengal has at least as many good men as the Upper Province, if not more, among the competition civilians of over 15 years' standing. But the tide has turned during the last ten years. Since the accession of Lord Lawrence to the Viceroyalty of India the star of the North-West Civilians has been in the ascendant. They have nearly monopolized the Indian Secretariats; they have a fair share of the diplomatic service; they have three non-regulation provinces at their command, *viz.* the Central Provinces, Oudh and British Burmah, and they have begun to encroach upon Assam. They have thus decided advantages over Bengal Civilians, and the most meritorious among the competition-wallahs take to the North-West service. Then, again the numerical strength of the North-West service has considerably increased. We give below from Mr. Tupp's book the following statement shewing the number of Haileybury and competition-civilians in each province at each quinquennial period:

	1858.			1860.		
	Haileybury.	Competition.	Total.	Haileybury.	Competition.	Total.
Govt. of India	36	...	36	40	1	41
Lower Bengal	230	33	263	189	29	218
North West Provinces...	155	4	159	168	21	189

Panjab ...	42	5	47	44	6	50
C. Provinces.	2	...	2	1	...	1
Assam ...	6	..	6	4	...	...
British Barmah ...		...	...	..	...	4
Madras ...	183	...	183	169	...	169
Bombay ...	144	10	154	135	10	145
Total..	798	52	850	750	67	817

	1865.			1870.		
	Hailey-bury.	Compe-tition.	Total.	Hailey-bury.	Compe-tition.	Total.
Govt. of India	19	1	20	32	9	41
Lower Bengal	140	108	248	100	132	232
North West Provinces ...	127	98	225	98	127	225
Panjab ...	27	35	62	19	38	57
C. Provinces.	12	3	15	7	8	15
Assam ..	2	5	7	4	6	10
British Barmah	2	...	2	...	...	..
Madras ...	121	75	196	81	93	174
Bombay ...	97	37	134	77	85	162
Total ...	547	362	909	418	498	916

	1857.			1880.		
	Hailey-bury.	Compe-tition.	Total.	Hailey-bury.	Compe-tition.	Total.
Govt. of India	30	19	49	17	17	34
Lower Bengal.	73	166	239	34	180	214
North Western Provinces ..	68	147	215	41	153	194
Panjab ...	10	68	78	7	85	92
C. Provinces..	4	26	30	3	24	27
Assam ...	1	10	11	2	21	23
British Barmah	...	8	8	...	27	27
Madras ...	51	105	156	30	130	160
Bombay ...	58	112	170	33	113	146
Total ...	295	661	956	167	750	917

It will be seen from the above that in 1858 the numerical strength of the Civil Service in Lower Bengal was 263, in 1880 it was 214, while in the same year in the North-Western Provinces including the Punjab and Central Provinces 208, in 1880 excluding British Burmah and Assam it was 313.

Take again the test of salaries. The averages given in Mr. Tupp's book vary. He says :

If we compare the salaries in different provinces in the same year, we find great varietions. Thus beginning from 1850 at which time the numbers of Civilians still remaining in the list first commence to be sufficiently large to give a fair average per province, it will be seen that while India is Rs. 6,666 and Madras nearly Rs. 4,000, the N. W. P. and Bombay are only Rs. 3,000 and Bengal is only 2,500 Rs. On the other hand in 1856 India is only 2,791, while the Panjab is 3,222 and Bengal and Bombay about 2,900, Madras being 2,500 and the N. W. P. only 2,200. Later on, in the years when such large numbers of Civilians were sent to Northern India, the figures are as follows: In 1861 India is 2,500, Madras 2,333, Bengal 2,069 and Bombay 2,000 while the N. W. P. and Panjab are only 1,892 and 1,785 respectively. In 1862 India again is 2,500 while Bombay and Madras run it close with 2,436 and 2,385; but Bengal, N. W. P. and Panjab decrease in that order, being 1,880, 1,526 and 1,477. The five provinces which are really similarly constituted (the Government of India and the smaller provinces being exceptional) are Bengal, N. W. P. Panjab Bombay and Madras, and these, in the years regarding which, there has been so much controversy, seem to be situated as follows. from 1861 to 1863 (all years given are to be considered *inclusive*) Madras is much the best off with 2,333, 2,385, and 1,834, Bombay comes next with 2,009, 2,436 and 1,724, Lower Bengal third with 2,069, 1880 and 1,635, the N. W. P. fourth with 1,892, 1,526 and 1,280, and the Panjab last with 1,785, 1,477 and 1,595.

But in 1864 a great change occurs and the Panjab jumps up to first place with 2,000. Bombay being second with 1,728 and Bengal third with 1,672, Madras is fourth with 1,169 and N. W. P. last with 900. The 2,000 in the Panjab is so very high that I am rather afraid there may have been some mistake in the calculations; but I have no books at present with me so I cannot verify them. In 1865 the order is Bombay 1st, Bengal 2nd, Panjab 3rd, N. W. P. 4th and Madras 5th, so that it may be given as a general conclusion that from 1861 to 1863 Madras is the best off, and the Panjab and N. W. P. are the worst off; and in 1864 and 1865 the Panjab and Bombay are the best off and Madras and the N. W. P. are the worst off. Up to 1864 Bombay is always second and Lower Bengal third among these Provinces but in 1865 Bombay is first and Lower Bengal second.

From 1867 to 1870 Madras is worse off than the N. W. P. or Bengal; but from 1870 onwards Madras is better off, than the N. W. P.

The scale of higher salaries in Bengal is much larger than in the North-Western Provinces, for instance the Puisne Judges of the High Court, Bengal, draw Rs. 4166 per month, whereas the Judges of the North-West High Court receive Rs. 3750 ditto, the members of the Board of Revenue, Bengal, are paid Rs. 4000 a month, whereas the same officers in the North-Western Provinces Rs. 3500 ditto, the Chief Secretaries to the Government of Bengal Rs. 3333 ditto. whereas the Secretary to the Government of the North-Western Provinces Rs. 3,000 ditto, the Secretary to the Bengal Board of Revenue Rs. 2500 ditto, whereas the Secretary to the North-West Board of Revenue Rs. 2000 ditto, and so on. These higher figures doubtless raise the average of the Bengal salaries, but it is only a few who have the good luck to rise to the top. But promotion is generally now-a-days faster in Northern India than in Lower Bengal. Further, the Government of India appointments generally fall to the lot of North-West Civilians. All the circumstances we have mentioned above render Northern India much more lucrative than Lower Bengal, and it is therefore no wonder that the best men at the open competition should now prefer the North-Western Provinces to Bengal. This we submit is not fair to Bengal. At any rate there ought to be a fair line drawn between the two branches of the service. We say this not in the interest of any particular class or clique of civilians, but of the general interests of the public service. If Bengal is the milch-cow of India, why should it not have the pick of the service? Then again to foster a generous rivalry among the two branches of the services, the loaves and fishes of the State ought to be divided between them in equal proportions. If the Government of India will deal out even-handed justice between the two branches of the service, we feel sure that the really meritorious among the competition-men will not shew an undue preference to the North-Western Province.

LATEST NEWS AND NOTES

HIS EXCELLENCY the Viceroy will receive a deputation of the Town Corporation with their address of welcome to-morrow at 3 P. M. His Excellency had originally appointed Thursday last, but on hearing that that day was the Pen and Ink day, sacred with the Hindus, His Excellency has considerately deferred the reception of the Address to to-morrow.

PURSUANT to notice His Excellency the Viceroy held his first Levee on Tuesday last at 9-30 P. M. We were glad to observe that His Excellency was in excellent health, and did not think it necessary to act upon the suggestion made that he should receive, sitting, the gentlemen to be presented on the occasion. His Excellency was able to receive them all, while standing, and passed through the ordeal without any fatigue. We rejoice at this on both personal and public grounds. It shews that the Viceroy's health is now thoroughly restored. The number of gentlemen presented was 1031, of whom 812 were Europeans, and 219 natives. The number of gentlemen, who had the private entre, was 100, of whom 87 were European and 13 natives. The number of gentlemen, who were unavoidably prevented from attending the Levee, was 176, of whom 117 were Europeans and 59 natives. The rush and crush were as usual, and we regret that no arrangements were made to prevent this evil. We were told by several gentlemen that they were obliged to come away without presenting themselves in consequence of the crush. We do hope that some steps will be taken to prevent this annual *melee* at Government House in future. Perhaps if the persons to be presented were grouped alphabetically, and seated accordingly as at the Star of India Chapter, and each group called in successively and passed through, there would not be so much confusion, pressing, and crushing. We observed with regret that some of our countrymen forgot their sense of propriety in dress in presenting themselves before the Queen's Representative. They actually appeared with small frocks and skull-caps.

WE ARE exceedingly glad to learn that Maharani Shurnomoye has with her wonted liberality seconded the movement for Sanskrit Title Examination. She has contributed the munificent sum of Rs. 8050 for the establishment of four scholarships, the sum of Rs. 8000 to be invested in 4 per cent. Government securities and Rs. 50 to cover premium. The annual interest will be applied to four scholarships of Rs. 8, 7, 6, and 4 respectively per month tenable for one year. The scholarships are to be awarded for proficiency in the following subjects, Darsana (philosophy), Smriti (Hindu law), Vedas, and Shahitya (general literature.) The schorships are to be called after the names of the members of the great family she represents, viz., the first to be called Dewan Kristokant Babu's scholarship, the second Raja Lokenath Roy's scholarship, the third Raja Hurrynath Roy's scholarship, and the fourth Raja Kristonath Roy's scholarship. This liberality of Maharani Shurnomoye will give a good impetus to the Sanskrit Title Examination movement.

WE HOPE the statement in the London papers telegraphed by Reuter that Her Majesty's Government has determined to repeal the Vernacular Press Act is correct. If the Liberal Ministry do this, they will be true to their words on at least one Indian subject. Their attitude on the cotton duty has greatly disappointed the Indian public, but Mr. Gladstone will redeem his good name to some extent, if he gives a quietus to that retrograde measure, the Vernacular Press Act. That Act was born of a panic and of gross political bigotry and intolerance; the Liberals have always repudiated both, and we therefore sincerely and earnestly hope that whilst in power, they will carry out what they so warmly advocated when not inpower. By doing so they will command the confidence of the whole native population of India.

WE UNDERSTAND that in consequence of representations received from several gentlemen in the Mofusil that as the Census operations, in which they have been called upon to assist, will take place in the middle of this month, it will be convenient to them if the Conference on the Rent Bill invited by the British Indian Association be advanced to some day later on, the Committee of the Association have deferred the Conference to Monday, the 28th February, at 2 P.M.

WE ARE EXCEEDINGLY GLAD to learn that the Hon'ble the Maharaja Jotendra Mohun Tagore Bahadur, C. S. I. has been nominated for the third time a member of the Vice-Regal Legislative Council. This is an honor for the first time conferred upon a non-official member of the Council, and very deservedly too. Apart from his high social position, great public services and personal qualities, and virtues the Maharaja possesses a wide grasp of mind and a singularly clear judgment, of which he gave many proofs during his last four years' connection with the Vice-Regal Council. There is not a member of the Council, who does not appreciate these rare qualities in the Maharaja, and Lord Lytton at the time of his departure from this country in a handsome autograph letter bore cheerful testimony to his talents, abilities and services. Lord Ripon has acted wisely by retaining the services of such a valuable member in his Council.

THE LAST MANCHESTER cry has not gone for nothing. The following notification published in the last *Gazette of India* announces further concession to Manchester:

In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 23 of the Sea Customs Act, 1878, and in modification of Notification No. 90, dated the 21st June 1879 the Governor General in Council has extended the exemption from all customs duties, notified on the 13th March 1879, in Notifications No. 59, (Sea Customs), to the class of grey cotton piece-goods known as dhoties and dhoti-bordered piece-goods which contain no yarn of higher number than 30s except in the border, when such border, whether coloured white or grey, is not more than four-and-a-half inches in width.

This Notification shall take effect on and after the 10th February 1881.

We should like to know what amount of revenue is sacrificed by this fresh surrender? If color-bordered goods are exempted, why not other colored and printed goods? We dare say they will come in by and bye, and then Manchester's campaign against India will have been fully accomplished. Alas! for poor India!

WE ARE INDEBTED to the Bengal Office for the following Sonthal news:

The latest reports received by Government regarding the temper of the people and the progress of census operations in the Sonthal Pergunnahs and the Sonthal villages in the adjoining districts are favourable. Some opposition was offered to the Assistant Commissioner of Rajmehal when he attempted to number the people at a village called Paharpur, but the resistance ceased as soon as a detachment of troops was marched from Sahibgunge to the refractory village. All the accounts received by Government are to the effect that the people are much impressed by the rapidity with which a large body of troops and extra police have been brought into the district and distributed over the disaffected tracts.

A rumour was recently spread among the Sonthals in the Govindpore subdivision of the Manbhoom district that on the night of the 17th the men would be branded on the shoulder and the women on the forehead with a new medicine specially brought from England for the purpose. The people cannot understand what object Govern-

ment can have in conducting census operations by night, and their fears that some deed of darkness is intended are confirmed by the time selected for the final tally. There is no doubt that for some time past there has been a real fear prevailing among the Santhals as to the objects of the census, and in the Santhal Pergunnahs the wildest reports have been circulated and credited. As, however, the work progresses and no evil results are experienced, the people appear to calm down and to allow themselves to be numbered without opposition.

A squadron of the 16th Bengal Cavalry was brought down on Thursday from Allahabad and will be employed in patrolling the country in company with the civil officers engaged in the census operations. The Santhals have a remarkable dread of horses.

WE HAVE RECEIVD from the Bengal Office another batch of official papers relative to the epidemic fever in Nuddea. We are glad to learn from Mr. Peacock's report that there is "a very satisfactory diminution in the death-rate." He writes: "In two thanas only—the Kutwali and Kooshtea—has there been an increase. As I have before observed, there must be some variations in the number of deaths week by week, so long as there are large numbers of persons still suffering more or less from the effects of the fever. But I hope now all cause for any serious apprehension has been removed. In the Kutwali and Kooshtea thanas there is sufficient medical aid. In fact, I think I may say with confidence that all really bad places are now under medical supervision." This is very satisfactory and reassuring. Mr. Peacock proposes the discontinuance of the weekly reports.

WE ARE exceedingly glad to learn that the case of Babu Mudhusudun Sircar, late sub-inspector of schools, Dukhin Shabazpore, which we noticed the other day, has been decided by His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor in his favour. He has been informed that instructions have been issued to the Director of Public Instruction to reinstate him in the Education Department in the position, which he occupied at the date of his dismissal.

THE MORNING papers publish the address of the Chamber of Commerce to the Viceroy and his Excellency's reply thereto. The Chamber have very properly eschewed controversial matters in the address, but they have not refrained from calling attention to several important points connected with domestic administration, commerce and industry. The Viceroy's reply is kind and conciliatory. Referring to the periodical recurrence of famine His Excellency says: "I fully recognise that one of the most important tasks which devolve at the present time on the Government of India, is the adoption and promotion of sound and judicious measures for the prevention of famine." His Excellency thus concludes: "The return of peace will happily enable my colleagues and myself to devote our whole attention to questions relating to the welfare of the people and the development of the resources of the country." We say—*amen*!

ANOTHER apple of discord in the Suburban Municipality! After much discussion an Engineer was appointed to the Municipality we believe some three years ago, and he has done his work well. But he seems to be a thorn on somebody's side, and a movement we are told has been set on foot to get rid of him. He was asked to prepare a scheme of surface drainage for the suburbs, which has received the approval of such competent engineers as Mr. Bradford Leslie, Mr. Duff Bruce, and the Presidency Executive Engineer, but somehow an opinion has been obtained from Col. Staunton, the Public Works Secretary, that it is not a good scheme. On the strength of this opinion it is said the Engineer is to be removed from his office. The Engineer is a native gentleman, formerly of the Public Works Department, who has always borne a high character for efficiency and uprightness. We advocate economy, but when it is sought to be practised at the sacrifice of efficiency it becomes positively injurious. Mr. Lyall, the present Chairman of the Municipality, is new to the district, and we hope he will bring an unbiassed mind to bear on the consideration of the subject. This question is fit to be taken up by the Suburban Ratepayers' Association.

WE PUBLISH, in another column, a letter from "an Officer in the Education Department" on the Indianization of English books. The idea is certainly a good one, and has the benefit of having logic entirely on its side, but, like all good ideas, such as those of Millenium, Utopia, Salutland, Hygia &c., it is a trifle difficult of realization. Our correspondent is, however, welcome to "gird up his loins" in company of Messrs. Browne, High Priest and Co., and try to realize the kingdom of heaven on earth.

APROPOS of Captain Cole's appointment as Curator of Indian Antiquarian remains, the *Pioneer* has an appreciative note on the service done to Indian Archæology by Captain Keith, of the 39th Regiment. "In Gwalior, that officer has, for the last two years been performing, *suo motu*, the duties of local antiquarian." He has rescued from ruin a fine old temple, which had been converted into a coffee shop, collected together all scattered fragments of sculpture, and laid the foundation of a local museum. He has, moreover, at considerable cost and time taken a great number of sketches of a variety of interesting carvings of a by-gone age. We have had an opportunity of examining his portfolio, and can speak with great confidence on the value of many of his drawings. It is much to be regretted that a person of his taste and predilection should be so summarily sent away under the warrant which has just come into operation. With three large establishments, such as of General Cunningham, Mr. Burgess, and Captain Cole, on hand, our Government cannot retain the services of Captain Keith, but as that gentleman has so thoroughly identified himself with Gwalior, His Highness the Maharaja Sendhia should do something for the antiquities of his raj. It is a blot on his administration that, with a country studded every-where with ancient remains of the highest value to history and art he should be known to his contemporaries and to posterity as the Hindu sovereign, who allowed ancient Hindu temples to be converted into coffee-shops, and some of the finest carvings that ancient Indian art has ever produced to be begrimmed with soot in coffee shops, knocked about as play-things for village urchins, and not unoften utilised as currystones or road metal. The matter is worthy of his special consideration and we earnestly hope he will not allow it to be neglected. Amateurs have done a great deal more for Indian antiquities than professionals. The latter are satisfied with drawing their pay, the former seek the approbation of the public and the gratification of their innate love for study, and the most satisfactory results are always to be expected from their researches.

WE HAVE done with the Jungypore case. We will notice another case, which is known as the Alipore case. This case originated from a trivial cause. It would appear that an Honorary Magistrate of Barripore, Babu Debendra Kumar Roy Chowdry, in a case tried by him, had awarded the complainant some compensation out of the fine inflicted on the defendant. Overlooking the standing rule on the subject he directed the payment of the amount realized from the defendant before the expiration of the time allowed for presenting an appeal. There was some by-play between the Honorary Magistrate and the sub-divisional Deputy Magistrate in this matter, but the case came before the Government in connection with a letter of explanation, which the Deputy Magistrate had addressed to the District Magistrate, and which the Honorary Magistrate, as he alleges, brought back from the office of the District Magistrate with the consent of the Deputy. It was the extreme sensitiveness of the Honorary Magistrate, which led to the *contretemps*, for he did not like that his irregular proceeding, though trivial in itself, should come to the knowledge of the District Magistrate. The return of the letter was obtained through the assistance of Deputy Magistrate Babu Rakhal Dass Mookerjee and the head-clerk of the Magistrate's Office, Babu Nobo Coomar Raha, and it is in connection with this transaction that their conduct and that of the Honorary Magistrate have been called in question. The head-clerk is condemned for allowing the letter to pass out of the office without the Magistrate's permission, and he aggravated his own fault by denying the fact to the Magistrate when questioned by him. Mr. Monro, the then Presidency Commissioner, has viewed his conduct seriously and ordered his dismissal. He took a more lenient view of the conduct of Deputy Magistrate Babu Rakhal Das Mookerjea and recommended his transfer. But the Lieutenant-Governor does not agree with him. His Honor says that "the Deputy Magistrate allowed himself to be made a party to the clandestine removal of the letter from the Magistrate's office," that "it was his plain duty to have consulted the Magistrate, and by culpably omitting to do so he allowed himself to be mixed up in a most discreditable transaction," and that Babu Rakhaldas Mookerjea "is hardly less to blame than the head-clerk." Babu Rakhaldas Mookerjea is accordingly removed from the 3rd to the 4th grade, and "will not be again promoted without full consideration of his conduct in this case." The Honorary Magistrate is condemned for clandestinely obtaining possession of a letter from the Magistrate's office with the intention of concealing its existence from the Magistrate, and asking the Sub-Divisional Deputy Magistrate to destroy it and to alter his register. "Having regard, however, to the position, which Babu Debendra Kumar Roy Chowdry holds, to the good work he has done, and the circumstances which gave rise to the case," the Lieutenant-Governor has allowed him to resign his honorary appointments. His Honor does not accept the view which Mr. Monro took of the conduct of Babu Umesh Chunder Battabyal. Sir Ashley Eden is of opinion that the Sub-Divisional Deputy Magistrate "might have settled the whole matter without any difficulty. Had he or either of the other Government officers who were concerned in this case explained to Mr. Beadon how sensitive the Honorary Magistrate was to the possibility of a slight censure, not a word would have been said to him about his most trivial and unimportant irregularity. Instead of doing this Babu Umeshchunder Batabyal in a manner encouraged the Honorary Magistrate to try and get the letter returned and not brought on record. His conduct was not straightforward throughout and his letter to the Honorary Magistrate is not a creditable one." Babu Umesh Chunder Battabyal is to be transferred to another station.

We regret this case very much. Here were four educated men, all charged with responsible duties, and holding a good position, detected in a plot to conceal official information from the District Magistrate. To say the least their conduct was any thing but creditable. The Lieutenant-Governor's orders in the case are fair and just. We must, however, confess that the punishment awarded to the head-clerk is disproportionately heavy. We do not certainly defend his conduct. He was to blame for allowing the letter to leave the office without the Magistrate's permission, but he gave the letter to Babu Rakhal Das Mookerjea, the Deputy Magistrate, a trusted and experienced officer, at his own request. He must have thought that in the absence of the Magistrate he could not have done better than take the advice of a senior officer like Babu Rakhal Das, and that he had committed no fault when the latter had himself taken the letter. It was his misfortune to have denied the fact to the Magistrate, but as we take it he must have done so in a fright. At any rate he had no corrupt motive in the matter. If as the Lieutenant-Governor holds that Babu Rakhal Das Mookerjee was "hardly less to blame than the head-clerk," surely even-handed justice ought to be done between them, but the former is degraded one step, while the latter is visited with the extreme sentence, dismissal, blasting his prospects in life for ever. Successive Magistrates, among them Mr. Peacock, the present Presidency Commissioner, have borne the highest testimony to his qualifications, services and character, and this consideration ought to have had due weight in the award of punishment upon him. We hope some reparation may yet be done to him.

WE UNDERSTAND that the Syndicate of the Calcutta University have adopted Mr. Lethbridge's Selections from Modern English Literature as the text-book for the Entrance Examination of 1882, the particular portions to be read will be announced in the course of the year.

DR. DE JONGH'S LIGHT-BROWN COD LIVER OIL.—ITS UNEQUALLED EFFICACY IN CONSUMPTION AND DISEASES OF THE CHEST.—The Medical Profession of all countries now consider Dr. de Jongh's Light-Brown Cod Liver Oil as incomparably the most valuable remedy for consumption and Diseases of the Chest. No remedy so rapidly restores the exhausted strength, improves the nutritive functions, stops emaciation, checks the perspiration, quiets the cough and expectoration, or produces a more marked and favourable influence on the local malady. Dr. Waudby, Physician to the Hereford Infirmary, writes:—"I can take Dr. de Jongh's Light-Brown Cod Liver Oil without any difficulty or dislike, and with as little inconvenience as water alone. Not only in my own case, but in many others I have seen, it has caused an improvement of chest symptoms and an increase of weight, so soon and so lastingly, as to be quite remarkable. I believe Dr. de Jongh's Oil to be the most valuable remedy we possess for chronic and constitutional disease." Dr. de Jongh's Light-Brown Cod Liver Oil is sold only in capsuled imperial half-pints, pints, and quarts, with his stamp and signature and the signature of his sole consignees on the capsule and the label under wrapper, by all chemists druggists and storekeepers. Sole Consignees, Ansar, Harford and Co., 77, Strand, London.

COMMERCIAL.

(FROM OUR COMMERCIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

Saturday, 5th February, 1881.

Piece Goods.—This market has been unusually quiet during the four working days of the week owing to want of demand from the consuming districts where large stocks are still held. This combined with want of emulation on the part of the local dealers whose hands are quite full and who are reluctant to add further to their stocks.

Turkey Red-Goods are the only ones which met with favor. Yarns, import kinds quite neglected, country manufactured sorts have been less in enquiry and prices had an easier tendency.

Exports. Indigo season has closed and the total quantity of 1,33,500 Mds. has been disposed of.

Tea.—4137 chests have found buyers, there has been a brisk demand and slight advance was obtained for some qualities.

Jute.—Market less active and prices have declined about couple of annas per maund. They range at present from low to good from 3-10 to 5-2.

Oil Seeds.—Nothing of importance has transpired in this market. Rice. about 61,000 bags of 2 Mds. each of the following kinds found buyers at the rates quoted below.

Table Seeta	...	4-4	@ 4-5
Sifted	...	3	,, 3-12
Gross	..	3	,, 3-7
Ballam	..	1-14	,, 2-3
Raree	..	1-9	,, 2
Khearee	...	1-10	,, 1-12

MONETARY.

There has been no change in this market.

GOVT. SECURITIES

Have been in less enquiry with slight variation in the rates which were at the close as following Rs. 100 for 4% and 108-7 to 108-6 for 4½%.

JOINT-STOCK SHARES

Have been in less favor and nothing of interest has transpired.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

MOFUSSIL SUBSCRIPTIONS.

	Rs.	As.	P.
His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General of India	11	8	0
A. Mackie Esq., C. S. Daltongunge	13	4	0
Dr. J. Murdoch, Madras	13	4	0
Mobaranee Surnomoye C. I., Cossimbazar	13	4	0
Dr. Roheem Khan, Khan Bahadoor Lahore	13	4	0
Bhandra Public Library	13	4	0
Mohamed Abdas Sobhan, Shakidah	13	4	0
H. H. the Maharajah of Patiala	13	4	0
Vice-Chairman District Rood Cess Committee, Rungpore	9	12	0
Oomrawati City Library	13	4	0
District Engineer, Chuprah	4	8	0
S. Kutilingam Naido Esq., Nellore	3	5	0
Moulvi Shankara Toincli, Barsoe	6	13	0
A. Sreenivasa Charloo Esq., Bangalore	5	0	0
Nagapatam Reading Room	6	10	0
T. S. Nursinga Row Esq., Chittore	11	14	0
B. Mettrajit Singh, Massooree	13	4	0
H. B. Beames Esq., C. S. Chairman Road Cess Committee, Berhampore	2	4	0
Tumkur Railway Reading Room	3	5	0
Secretary Reading Room, Tuticorin	3	5	0
R. Balajee Row Esq., Mylapore	13	4	0
Secretary M. I. Society, Mayaveram	1	2	0
Baboo Shoseevusun Mookerjee, Secretary Pubtic Library, Bhaugulpore	13	12	0
,, Tarruck Nath Chatterjee, Bhatooria	10	0	0
,, Mutty Lal, Secunderpore	9	0	0
,, Rasbehary Lal Mondar, Mandichack	6	10	0
,, Luchminarain, Bhaugulpore	5	9	0
,, Nobin Krishna Banerjee, Berhampore	20	0	0
,, Kasova Chunder Sadhoo, Chundernagore	6	10	0
,, Kadar Nath Chuckrabutty, Kandooah	3	0	0
,, Hurry Churn Roy, Chuckdighi	18	4	0
,, Gopal Chunder Mittra, Bustee	3	0	0
,, Saruth Chunder Chuckrabarty, Debogram	6	10	0
,, Anund Chunder Das, Farruckabad	13	4	0
,, Woomesh Chunder Dutt, Meerbazar	5	0	0
,, Gyanoda Sunker Bose, Syampore	6	10	0
,, Doorga Prosad Mookerjee. Ghazipore	6	10	0
,, Nilcant Gangoly, Ambaria	13	4	0
,, Sooronath Chowdry, Echapore	13	4	0
,, Buddinath Chowdry, Rani Sankail	13	4	0
,, Akoorchunder Chowdry, Jamalkhan	13	4	0
,, Poornochunder Banerji, Rutlam	13	4	0
,, Kissorymohan Chowdry, Sherepore	10	0	0
,, Jogandronath Roy, Moneerambattee	13	4	0
Ditto Ditto	5	8	0
,, Hemchunder Ghose, Chandpur	13	4	0
,, Kissen Singh, Seeree	6	10	0
,, Moheshchunder Singh, Holta	5	0	0
,, Jodoonath Sahoi, Bankipore	20	0	0
,, Kristochurn Bysak, Mymensingh	13	4	0
,, Hemchunder Barooah, Gowhatty	13	0	0
,, Sreenath Roy, Hooghly	13	4	0
,, Hurry Coomar Dutt, Tipperah	6	10	0
,, Isaur Chunder Seal, Cachar	10	0	0
,, Siva Dyal, Baxar	13	4	0
,, Tapidas Doyarm, Baroda City	13	4	0
,, Gour Doolal Dey, Meerut	1	2	0

Government Notifications

Calcutta Gazette,—*February* 2, 1881.

GENERAL.—Mr. H. J, Newbery, Magistrate and Collector Bhagulpore, is allowed furlough for twenty months, under Section 21, Chapter IV of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the 2nd March 1881, or from such subsequent date as he may avail himself of it.

Mr. E. W. Collin of the Bengal Civil Service, having passed the prescribed examination by the Higher Standard in Persian, has been presented with the authorized donation of Rs. 500.

Moonshee Kutubooddeen is appointed to act as a Sub-Deputy Collector in the Patna Division, during the absence, on leave, of Moulvi Nusseeruddin, or until further orders.

Moulvi Abdul Wahab, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Dinagepore, is allowed leave for two months and five days, under the rules in Chapter VII of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the 21st February next.

Babu Gobind Mohun Ghose, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Shahabad is allowed leave for three months under Sections 4 and 16, Supplement F of the Civil Leave Code, in extension of that granted to him under the orders of the 11th September last.

Babu Runga Lal Banerjee, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Howrah, is allowed leave for ten days, under Section 4, Supplement F of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the date on which he availed himself of it.

Mr. C. S. Bayley, Assistant Magistrate and Collector is allowed leave for three months, under the rules in Chapter VII of the Civil Leave Code. with effect from the 1st February next or from such subsequent date as he may avail himself of it.

Mr. A. A. Wace, Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector Beerbhoom is posted to the Santhal Pergunnahs.

Mr. C. M. W. Brett, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Hooghly is posted to the Santhal Pergunnahs.

Babu Narendro Nath Chowdhry, temporary Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Sarun, on leave is transferred to Tipperah.

Mr. H. M. Kisch, Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Judicial, Political and Appointment Departments is allowed leave for two months and seven days, under the rules in Chapter VII of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the 16th instant,

Mr. W. H. Page, Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector is posted temporarily to Burdwan, on being relieved of his present appointment as Officiating District and Sessions Judge Burdwan. Mr. Page is appointed to act, until further orders, as a Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, of the First Grade.

Mr. F. W. V. Peterson, Officiating District and Sessions Judge, Jessore is appointed to act as District and Sessions Judge of Pubna, during the absense on deputation of Mr. F. W. R. Cowley or until further orders.

Mr. C. D. C. Winter Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector is posted to Pubna, on being relieved of his present appointment as Officiating District and Sessions Judge of Pubna. Mr. Winter is appointed to act, until further orders as a Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector of the First Grade.

Moulvi Dilwar Hossein Ahmed, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, is appointed to have charge of the Brahmunbariah division of the district of Tipperah *vice*, Babu Bhoobun Mohun Raha.

Moulvi Gollam Lillahi, temporary Sub-Deputy Collector in the Bhagulpore Division is posted to Doomka in the Sonthal Pergunnahs.

Babu Gopee Krishna Lall, temporary Sub-Deputy Collector in the Bhagulpore Division, is posted to the Soopool sub-division of the district of Bhagulpore.

Advertisements.

PEREIRA, CHATTERJEE & Co.,

BUILDERS,

CIVIL AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERS,

GENERAL CONTRACTORS

AND

Land, House and Commission Agents,

4, Hastings Street, & 7, North Road Entally,

CALCUTTA.

RUPEES 200 REWARD.

Lost or Stolen from Room No. 51, Great Eastern Hotel, on Tuesday, February 1st, between the hours of 8 and 10 A. M., a Diamond Ring of following description:—

Stone weighs 2 carats. A little off colour, without a flaw, Gipsy Setting, with small inner ring made on account of ring being a trifle large.

Any one bringing same to John Roberts and Co's., 41, Bentinck Street, will receive the above reward, and no questions will be asked.

A Special Meeting of the Commissioners of the Town of Calcutta will be held at the Municipal Office, on Saturday, the 12th February 1881, *at* 3 P. M.

BUSINESS TO BE BROUGHT FORWARD.

1. To confirm the Proceedings of the Town Council, at a Meeting held on the 22nd January 1881.

2. To confirm the Proceedings of the Water-supply Extension Committee, at a Meeting held on the 21st January 1881.

3. The Chairman to lay on the table Memo. by Health Officer submitting vital statistics for the month of December 1880.

ROBERT TURNBULL,

Secretary to the Corporation.

National Society.

ANNUAL MEETING.—Thursday the 10th, at the Town Hall at 4½ P.M. Addresses on the Progress of the Hindoo Society and honorable mention of great and illustrious characters.

GYMNASTICS.—Friday and Saturday evenings 11th & 12th, at the National School, Mooktaram Baboo's Street near the Seddeshuree Shrine.

THEATRICAL PERFORMANCES at the National Theatre, Saturday night, 12th. Reduced rates.

Hindoo Mela 15th Anniversary.

At the Cossipore Gun Foundry Ghat—Saturday, from 11 A.M. to 6 P.M. Swimming Race, Boat Race, Musical and other entertainments.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT.

HAMILTON & CO.

JEWELLERS & SILVERSMITHS,

IN ORDINARY TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE VICEROY OF INDIA.

Have the honour to announce that they have received instructions from

MESSRS. MOOLCHUND, HURRUCKCHUND, BISHENCHUND,

Bankers of Moorshedabad,

TO SELL ON AN EARLY DAY,

BY PUBLIC AUCTION,

To the highest bidders, without limit or reserve, in satisfaction of a mortgage,

A MAGNIFICENT AND SUPERB COLLECTION OF NATIVE JEWELS.

Consisting of Head Ornaments, Cheeks or Throat Ornaments, Bina or Forehead Ornaments, Earrings and Ear Ornaments, Nose Rings, Bangles, Bracelets, Wristlets, Thumb Ornaments, Taubeez, Jawson, Jhoomka, Dhenree, Harrs, Chandra Harrs, Valuable Rings, &c., set with Diamonds, Rubies, Emeralds, Pearls, and Cat's-eyes of the first water, and of a purity and quality rarely seen; also some fine Naoruttons.

Strings of large Pearls, Diamond Studs,

AND A NUMBER OF EMERALDS QUAINTLY CARVED.

Full particulars will be announced hereafter.

These valuable and superb articles will shortly be placed on view, and drawings and catalogues are now in course of preparation.

Hamilton and Co

Jewellers in Ordinary

TO

H. E. THE VICEROY & H. R. H. THE PRINCE OF WALES.

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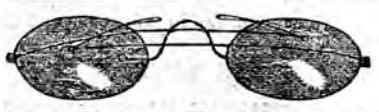

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NOTES OF TRAVEL IN THE N. W. P.

BY A TRAVELLER.

IV.

(Concluded from our issue of the 27th December 1880.)

Travelling three miles to the west from Ajmere by steep carriage road in many places cut through rocks, and guarded on either side by lofty hills, I next arrived at our celebrated *Pooskar tirthi*, which is a beautiful lake with solid masonry ghats nearly on all sides. I saw lotus growing in abundance on this lake; it abounds also in huge alligators. The bather must be constantly on his guard, otherwise not unoften he runs the risk of being carried away and devoured by this acquaeous brute. I really wonder how this species of monsters got in here in arid Rajpootana with no river, lakes or tanks. It was here, say our Pooraus, that Brahma in the accidental absence of his wife *Sabitri* performed a *Yagnya* with *Gyatri devi* by his side, and Sabitri, it is said, coming in later to this spot got indignant at the conduct of her husband, so she left him and went over to a hill distant about a mile and a half from *Pooskar* called the *Sabitri Parbut*, and took her abode there on the top of this hill; at a height of a mile and a half is to be seen a temple with an image of Sabitri and a visit to the goddess here by a Hindoo wife accompanied by her husband is held to be an act of great virtue. In the bed of the *Pooskar* to its north-west corner in water is a little temple which marks the spot where Brahma performed the Yagnya.

From Ajmere I travelled down by the Rajpootana State Railway direct to Agra and after revisiting all the places of interest here, for this was my second visit to the capital of Akbar, I went to Futtehpoor Sikri, (which every one must see who goes to Agra) distant about 23 miles from it. There is a beautiful carriage road from Agra to Futtehpoor Sikri. The student of Indian History knows very well that Futtehpoor Sikri is an historical place. It was here in or about A. D. 1516 the last battle between Hindoos and Mussulmans or between Raja Sanga of Mewar and Emperor Baber took place, which culminated in the establishment on a firmer footing of the Mogul empire. There is a fort here built of red stone by Akbar within which still exist many of his little stone-built palaces. He often used to come and live here in honor of the saint Selim Shistee, who lies buried here under a splendid sepulchre. The visitor will here see in pretty good condition, a little two storied house in which lived with his daughter the celebrated Hindoo General Beerbul many anecdotes about whom are still to be heard throughout Hindustan. It is now called Beerbul's bungalow and is reserved for district officers. The visitor will here see extensive court-yards with a fountain in the middle the like of which I feel sure is to be seen nowhere. The arched stone gate is to the south and I should think is the highest gate in the world. Allaooddin's gate in old Dehli, I had thought, was the highest, but it can bear no comparison with the gate here. It is still in its splendid condition though nearly 3 centuries have passed away.

I returned to Calcutta *via* Allahabad of course, and while there I heard from a very authentic source, a remarkable new phase of Hindoo, or more properly speaking Bengali charity. Babu Asootosh Mukerjea, a very respectable Hindoo gentleman who is a large contractor, resides here. One day while he was at the Allahabad Railway station, he saw a boy, manacled and kept under custody by the Police. His offence was that he had travelled by the Railway, but when he arrived at Allahabad and when asked for his ticket he could not produce it, having evidently lost it and was made over to the Railway Police, who immediately put him in chains. Baboo Asootosh immediately paid his fare and since that day always keeps in the hands of the station-master Rs. 200 as a sort of *relief fund* for those poor people who accidentally happen to lose their Railway tickets. Is not this an admirable piece of charity, albeit a novelty?

You know, I am not a simple sight-seer but, if you will allow me, to egotise myself a little, a careful enquirer of things and matters in general and particular, so I give you below a brief summary of the knowledge and information I acquired and gathered during my journey.

(1.) The native princes are day by day growing better and more considerate rulers of their people since they have begun to avail themselves of the services of educated natives in the administration of their territories. The deservedly high reputation and popularity of the late Maharaja of Jeypore was greatly due to his having placed in a great masure some of the important departments of the state under the guidance of educated Bengalis.

(2). I always thought that the British Resident were at the Court of native princes was an incubus sitting upon them. I am now of opinion that so long as our native princes are not thoroughly educated and assisted by educated natives, Resident or Agent is, and must be an indispensible appendage; he often proves, if he be a little conciliatory and unmeddlesome, a guide and philosopher to the native prince, often assisting him with his enlightened opinion and advice. On all matters he is consulted.

(3). That wherever an educated native has obtained a footing in a native principality and is encouraged and supported by the Political Agent, the administration increases in prosperity and popularity to the contentment and happiness of the people.

(4). The land settlement, if it can be called so, in native states ought to be on a better footing—so as to leave to the peasant a little higher margin of profit than is now eked out to him, when it is borne in mind that he cultivates the land under greatest difficulties drawing water for purposes of irrigation from wells of a depth of 150 to 300ft.

(5). That female slavery of a peculiar type still prevails in Rajputana, which deserves to be enquired into and put a stop to by the Paramount Power.

(6.) That the temporary settlement of the land revenue in the whole of the N. W. Provinces is day by day growing highly unpopular with the landlord as also the tenant, as at every new settlement the public demand is almost disproportionately enhanced, that a permanent settlement would soon convert the fields into happy gardens. The largest capitalists in the North-West, the great Seths of Mathura, were asked and advised by one of our popular Governors to invest their money more largely in land. The answer was, it does not pay and that it was by no means safe and advantageous to spend capital in the improvement of landed estates.

(7). The magisterial officers were almost everywhere with few exceptions a little too zuburdust and overzealous.

(8). That while the Government was effecting retrenchment of expenditure by the abolition of *Kheranis*, Dufturies and Chaprasis, the Allahabad High Court and similar High Courts elsewhere have a number of Judges, who can without least detriment to public service be considerably reduced—there being scarcely sufficient work for the present number.

(9). That the new so-called Patriotic Fund albeit its object be very humane, is highly unpopular with all classes of the community from the prince to the humble tradesman. The call for this subscription, I have found everywhere viewed in the light of an imposition. The official phraseology employed for inviting this subscription was, you are not bound to pay, but if you do subscribe it must not be less than what that Prince, a Newab, Maharaja or merchant has subscribed. You readily understand what this means. And every body cried down the Kabul war.

(10). A word more and *Bus*. I observed throughout the Upper Provinces and Rajputana a remarkable peculiarity in native dress, while we Bengalis throughout the year in season and out of seasons wear many colored dresses, the native everywhere there was dressed in white muslin and with his peculiar cloth turban looked a picture. I noticed this particularly at Ulwar and Jeypore, where my countrymen were similarly dressed.

Yours—

Over 2300 miles in 3 weeks.

The remarks made in No. III of the Notes the writer desires to state, refer to the Ulwar Jail, not to that of Jeypore.

LOCAL.

WE ARE requested to publish the following full report of the Pandits' meeting held at the Senate House of the Calcutta University on the 22nd January last:

A public meeting of the above Sova was held at the Senate House, on Saturday the 22nd January, with the object of checking the spread of the opinions which Pandit Dyanaund Saraswati has been promulgating as Arya dhurma. Pandit Sadarsana Chari Shastri of Brindaban; Pandits Tara Nath Tarkavachasputi, Mohesh Chunder Nyarutna, Ram Narayon Tarkaratna, Modusoodun Smritiratna, Bhaisav-Chandra Vidyalankar of Calcutta; Pandits Bhoobun Mohun Vidyaratna, Prosnno Chunder Tarkaratna of Navadwipa; Pandit Ramdhone Tarakapunchanun of Jessore; Pandit Rakhaldas Nyaratna, of Bhatpara, Pandit Taruck Nath Turkaratna of Burdwan; Pandit Gungadhur Vidyaratna of Guptipara; Pandit Sriram Siromani of Berhampore, Pandit Soobrohmo Shastri of Benares and many other pandits numbering about 300.

The following Native noblemen and gentlemen also attended the meeting:—

The Hon'ble Maharaja Jotendro Mohun Tagore Bahadoor, C.S.I. Maharaja Komul Krishna Bahadoor, Raja Rajendro Narain Deb Bahadoor, Raja Rajendro Mullick, Raja Harendro Krishna Bahadoor. Raja Sowrendro Mohun Tagore, C. I. E. The Hon'ble Rai Kristodas Pal Bahadoor, C. I. E.

Baboo Joykissen Mookerjee, Pandit Banka Behari Bajpye of Cawnpore, M. Jamna Narayon Tewari of Cawnpore, Rai Badridas Mookim Bahadoor, Seth Jugul Kishore, Seth Nahur Mull, Seth Hansraj, Lala Ghura Mall, and some 400 others. Pandit Mohesh Chundra Nyaratna, Principal of the Sanskrit College, was appointed Secretary of the Meeting. The Secretary explained the objects of the Meeting and then proposed the following questions for solution:—

Question I.—Whether or not the *Brahman Bhag* of the *Vedas* is as valid and authoritative as the *Muntra Bhag* or *Sanhita Bhag* is? And whether the other Smritis are as valid and authoritative as *Manu* Smritis?

Answer.—Both valid and authoritative.

Pandit Ram Subarmanya *alies* Subba Shastri answered the question a follows:—

The validity of the whole of the *Vedas* is authoritatively established by the text "yad void" Kinchan manu rabudaltad veshajum in Yajus Sinhita. In Chapter VI. of Manus *Smriti* there is this text.—"At a shcha unnascha saventa diksha biprahorna bushan vividhascha upanisadi ratna samsidhya sutribi." This text conclusively proves that the upanishad contained, in the *Braman Bhag* is quite as valid and authoritative as the Vedas. In *Taiterya Yajur Veda Anurnyak kaud* in the text "Smriti pratackshia maytahium manumannas chatistama &c., &c." By this text the validity of all the *Smritis* is authoritatively established.

Question II.—Whether or not the worship of the images of Vishnu, Siva, Durga, the performance of *shrad* ceremonies and pilgrimages to holy places are sanctioned by the shastras?

Answer.—Yes, they are all sanctioned by the sastras.

Pandit Ram Subarmanya *alias* Ram Subba Shastri gave the following answer:—

The text "Tawas Sriai Marutasmarjanti rudrayatya Janmia Charu Chitrani" in *Rig Veda Sanhita* sanctions the worship of *Siva Linga*. The text "Abbi Mukta tabak Khetra Sarvasam muktisidhya aham sumhitasastra pashana pratima dishu khestrasmui purchid Chakta mantra naneu maum in siva" in *Ramtapani Upanishad* sanction the worship of the image of Vishnu. In *Yajur Veda* there is the text "Nivitam Manus shanam prachi navitam pritinam &c., &c.," which sanctions the performance of shrads of deceased persons. There is another text "Chandala Kote Janmasha &c. &c." which clearly shows that whoever fails to perform the *shrad* ceremony of deceased persons becomes a *chandal*. In *Rig Veda Sanhita* there is the text "sitaseta sarison yatra sangata tatra phetasodeva mutputantiman ma ganga &c., &c." This text and several passages in Manu Smriti sanction pilgrimages to holy places.

Question III.—Whether the *Rig* "agni mela purohitam" is intended to mean the diety of fire or God?

Answer.—Diety of fire: Pandit Ram Subarmanya *alias* Ram Subba Shastri gave the following answer to the question:—

The primary meaning of the word "Agni" is dahan or fire and its secondary meaning is God. It is not reasonable to pass over the primary meaning of a word and take its secondary meaning.

Question IV.—Whether *Jognas* are performed for purifying air and water or for securing admission into paradise.

Answer.—Securing admission into paradise, &c.

Pandit Ram Subarmanya *alias* Ram Subba Shastri gave the following answer to the question:

Jognas are performed, not for purifying air and water but for securing admission into paradise as is shown by the following text in *Yajur Vedas* "Agnihotrama juhiyat swarga kama swarga Kamo Yajeta." This clearly shows that jognas are performed for securing admission into paradise.

Pandits Taranath Tarkvachaspati of Calcutta and Bhuban Mohun Vidyaratna of Navadwipa made long speeches supporting the answers given by Pandit Ram Subba Shastri to the questions proposed by the Secretary. They quoted several other texts from the Shastras bearing on the subject and all the Pandits present at the meeting expressed their concurrence in the opinions of Pandit Ram Subba Shastri Swami Dyanand Saraswati in his work entitled "Satyartha Prakash" explains that in support of his religious views he relies, resides *Dasaupanishad*, upon *Tataupanishad* including Kybalisupanishad and Mahabharat and Valmiki Ramayana. The text quoted by Pandit Ram Subba Shastri and supported by the Pandits present at the meeting were selected from the authorities acknowledged by Pandit Dayanund Saraswati to be valid and authoritative. Those who wish to study this subject fully should read Pandit Ram Subba Shastri's work entitled "Dyanund Kantakodhar printed at the Sarsudhanidi Press, Burra Bazar, Calcutta.

Correspondence.

THE ROMAN AKSHARA MOVEMENT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HINDOO PATRIOT.

SIR,—The "Roman Akshara" movement is certainly one in the wrong direction. The proper movement would be one for the substitution of the Devanagar alphabet, in one of its various forms, Bengali, Nagari, Kaethi, &c., for the Roman alphabet in writing the European languages, at least the English, with which we are concerned in this country.

Nobody will question the immense importance of the diffusion of a knowledge of the English language in this country. The dream of Indian Patriots, to blend the different races of India into one nationality, can only be fulfilled through the medium of the English language. During Mahomedan Supremacy, the Urdu language prevailed to such an extent, that even now, about a century and a half after the downfall of that supremacy, that language is the only one through which one can make himself understood, to ordinary classes of the population, throughout India from Rangoon to Cabul. Already has the English acquired this character among the cultivated classes, and there is no doubt that after about a century more of English rule, the English language will be even more diffused than the Urdu ever was.

There are a hundred other reasons why a knowledge of the English language is of the most vital importance to the people of the various provinces of India, and I do not desire to insult the understanding of your readers by enumerating them.

It is of very great importance, therefore, that the acquirement of a knowledge of the English language should be facilitated by eliminating the difficulty of learning the characters, and the methods of spelling now used in the English language. Every educational officer will tell you what an immense amount of labor is lost in teaching young pupils in this country characters which appear to them so outlandish, as compared with the easy regularity of those of their mother tongues,—quite as outlandish, as you may very well imagine, as young Civilians consider the characters of the Vernacular of their country to be. The difficulty of teaching young pupils, the proper pronunciation of the English characters, and of making them wade through the sea of irregular spelling pervading that language is even greater than that of making them familiar with the character themselves. I am quite sure, the difficulty of teaching the English language in this country, and the time now required for the process, would be reduced, by fully one-third, if not half, were the English language expressed in the Devanagar alphabet prevailing over India, including Burmah.

Every one will confess that the Devanagar alphabet is a more complete, scientifically arranged, and capable one than the Roman alphabet, and the difficulty of expressing the English language by means of that alphabet will certainly be considerably less than that of expressing the Vernaculars of their country by means of the Roman alphabet. At least the savans of the "Roman Akshara Somaj" can help us with some of the diacritical marks with which they are prepared to transform the Roman alphabet.

The first step in carrying out this proposal would be to print a number of English class-books in the Devanagar character and to introduce them into our Vernacular schools and Patshalas. Mr. Brown, whose name I find as one of the members of the Roman Akshara Somaj, if he be the same gentleman as the present Secretary to the School-book Society,* will doubtless be quite as prepared to undertake the publication of such class-books as he is, I presume, to publish Vernacular class-books in the Roman character.

The next step would be to get the Legislative Council of India to pass a law, (or a simple Executive order might do) requiring all Courts of Law, and Government Offices to write their records in cases where they are now kept in the English language, in the Devanagar character.

The final step would be to appoint a general Committee, independent of Government, or still better, create a new Department, with Dr. Hunter, or general Cunningham, at its head, who will change the characters of all English books imported into this country, and have them published in the Devanagar character. A simple arrangement with the Custom-House will effectually prevent the introduction into this country of any English book printed in the Roman character.

Perhaps it would be well to allow free trade principles to have full play in the matter, for there may be many in this country who would still like to read English books as they are published; and when it is known in England what kind of books are likely to have a sale in India, Messrs. MacMillan and Company and other enterprising London publishers, with the assistance of Messrs Lethbridge, Webbe, and other members of the Bengal Educational service might do the work of transliteration themselves in England.

With regard to the adoption of the first of the steps mentioned above, permit me to assure you that far from there

* He is the Civil and Sessions Judge of the 24-Pergunnahs. The person who owns the book shop is different.—ED. H. P.

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being any opposition to it, the whole body of people concerned, viz, the teachers, the students and their parents, will hail the innovation with the greatest delight and co-operate towards its introduction with the utmost alacrity.

It might be thought that there would be some difficulty in connexion with the second step mentioned above; but just think how very eager our enlightened rulers are to adopt projects of Law and Policy in accordance with the most advanced views of Political and Economic Science; in many cases considerably in advance of the nations of Europe; as for instance, in the adoption of Free-trade principles in connexion with Manchester goods, the salt line reform, and the projected reform of Bengal Land Tenures, Whatever be the state of things under Lord Ripon, there is no doubt that if at the next change in the political panorama of England, the Conservatives come into power, and Sir R. Temple is sent out as our next Governor-General, the political pendulum here will take a full swing towards all kinds of possible and impossible projects of reform; and that will be the time for our countrymen to push forward with vigor the most important reform advocated here.

All our Courts and offices are presided over by Civilians or other officers of the Military, Engineering, or Medical professions, who belong to the "most efficient service" in the world, and who are not only made to learn the Vernaculars of the country, but many of whom get very valuable prizes by passing examinations in those languages with "High Proficiency." On their part, therefore, there ought certainly to be no objection to the adoption of the reform, on the score of difficulty in writing decisions, reports, letters &c. in English, expressed in the Vernacular Alphabets. The native ministerial officers will one and all, certainly find it a great relief to write with the characters of their mother tongues, though the language be English.

Doubtless there will be some difficulty in completely revolutionizing the method of preparing the documents of all our Law Courts and Public offices, but what desirable reform was ever intended without a hard struggle with difficulties in the way. Moreover the difficulty of effecting such a revolution in the few Courts and offices where the English language is used, will certainly be infinitisimally small as compared with the task of revolutionizing the habits of hundreds of millions of men as the "Roman Akshra Somaj propose to do. It will certainly be an infinitely easier task to make an enlightened High-Court Judge to write his most learned decision, or a Commissioner to write his Annual General Administration Report, in the Devanagar character, than to pursuade a benighted Bania, or a Zemindari Gomasta to keep his account in the Roman character.

In every way therefore is the great reform advocated in this letter, beneficial and feasible and I have only to conclude with an expression of the wish that :—

এভরি ওএল উইশার অব দি কণ্ট্র; এভেরি পেটিয়ট এভরি ফিলান্থ্রপিক্ স্পিরিট্ বার্নিং উইথ্ দি ডিজায়ার্ টু এলিভেট্ দি বিনাইটেড্ মিলিয়ন্স্ অব্ ইণ্ডিয়া; এভেরি এন্লাইটেণ্ড্ সভাণ্ট ডিজায়ারিং টু মেক এ নেম্; শুড্ গার্ডন্, অপ্ হিজ্ লএন্স্, পুট্ হিজ্ শোল্ডরস টু দি হুইল্, এণ্ড হু হিজ বেষ্ট্ ইন দিস্ গ্রেট্ এনণ্ড গুড কজ; এণ্ড লীভ দি রিজল্ট টু গড।

Everyiwell-wisher of the country; every patriot; every philanthropic spirit, burning with the desire to elevate the benighted millions of India; every enlightened Savant desiring to make a name; should girdle up his loins, put his shoulders to the wheel, and do his best in this great and good cause; and leave the result to God.

Yours faithfully,
EDUCATIONIST.

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Calcutta, 17th January 1881.

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